

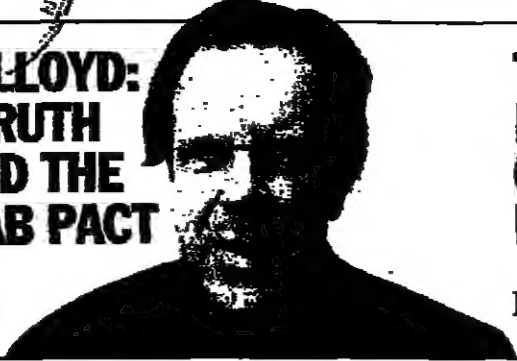
WE FATHERS ARE STRESSED TOO

Joe Joseph on the other working parent, PAGE 17



JOHN LLOYD: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LIB-LAB PACT

PAGE 18



THE NEW MUSEUM OF THE B52

PAGE 31



TOMORROW

FROM OLDHAM TO CHANEL MAGAZINE



White Paper becomes a best seller

Labour MPs acclaim plan for Scotland

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Gillian Bowditch

THE PROPOSALS

129-member Parliament to be elected in 1999.
Electors to get two votes, one for a constituency MP and one for a party list. 73 members will be directly elected, and 56 according to the votes for their parties.
Education, health, law, environment, local government, and other areas devolved.
Foreign, defence, security, and constitution stay with London.
Parliament able to increase, or decrease, tax by 3p.
Scottish MPs at Westminster to be cut by about 12.

The biggest change in Scotland's links to the rest of Britain for nearly 300 years was heralded yesterday as the Government published plans for an Edinburgh Parliament that can raise taxes and make many of its own laws.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, told MPs that the dramatic shift in power and influence back to Scotland, the greatest since the Act of Union in 1707, would strengthen the cohesion of the UK. The 129-member Parliament would start work in 2000.

But Michael Ancram, the Tories' constitutional spokesman, branded the proposals as "dangerous, damaging and dishonest". He claimed they would lead to "grave instability and long-term constitutional turmoil".

The White Paper stirred great public interest in Scotland last night. Within two hours of going on sale at a large Glasgow bookshop, 500 copies of the 16.50 document had been sold. A record for sales of a government publication looked certain. "They are going like the proverbial Scottish hot scones," the manager said.

A spokesman for the Stationery Office said it was astonished at the sales. "The Stationery Office printed an initial run of 5,000. Last night after hearing of demand from bookshops, they printed another 3,000," he said. "Bookshops around the country are reporting heavy sales. If this is anything to go by, fears of apathy seem groundless."

The new Parliament, if approved by a referendum, would be elected in 1999. An executive from the winning party would be headed by a First Minister and operate like a British Government.

It would be responsible for health, education, local government, housing, transport, law and order, the environment, agriculture, sport and the arts, and many other policy areas.

The Parliament would have power to raise or reduce the basic rate of income tax by up to three pence, yielding £450 million at today's figures. The sum would be guaranteed irrespective of changes to the structure of United Kingdom tax rates.

The Westminster Parliament would retain responsibility for foreign affairs.

not take place until the general election after next. The Boundary Commission will review the constituencies and reduce the number of seats, but it is not expected to report until 2004, leaving Mr Dewar to fight at a later date to keep the reduction in seats as small as possible.

In most other areas, Mr Dewar appeared to have beaten off his London opponents. His victories include the retention for the new Parliament of the present "block formula", under which the Scottish Secretary is able to distribute as he sees fit the overall finance for Scotland's public spending programmes. In future the Parliament will determine spending priorities.

He also hailed his guarantee that the Parliament would have the right to vary tax to the sum of £450 million, although the Labour Party in Scotland has already made plain that it has no intention of raising tax over the next five years.

It was not clear how the Parliament would be able to raise extra revenue if, because of changes to the British tax structure, 3p on the standard rate failed to raise £450 million. Officials said it was a matter for discussion between the Scottish executive and the Government.

Mr Dewar announced an unexpected change to the legislation that distinguishes it from the last Scottish home rule effort in 1978. The Bill will define the areas that are to be "reserved" to Westminster, rather than those that are to be devolved to Scotland. That means that the Edinburgh Parliament will be able to exercise its law-making powers in all other areas, reducing the scope for challenge.

Some Tory MPs attacked Mr Dewar's announcement that Scottish executive ministers would be able to participate in EU Council of Ministers meetings and could in some cases speak for the United Kingdom. He stressed that they would speak to an agreed British line.

A delighted Mr Dewar, who flew to celebrate with Scottish MPs and home rule campaigners at Edinburgh Castle last night, told MPs: "In my time I have seen many devolution schemes. I genuinely believe this is the last one."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Scottish home rule, page 11
Leading article, page 19



Tracey Whalin, chained at the ankles, is escorted into a Florida court yesterday

Woman who ran off with son's friend is arrested

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE mother of three who ran away with the 14-year-old best friend of her son was warned by detectives who found the couple in Florida that she faces up to 20 years in prison.

Tracey Whalin, 33, appeared in court last night in handcuffs and manacled at the ankles while the boy was being cared for by social workers.

Mrs Whalin from Nottingham kept her head bowed and nodded as the judge said that she will have to stay in custody unless she can find £140,000 bail. The couple had been found at a holiday resort in the Florida Keys after Sean Kinsella telephoned his parents and police traced the call.

Dressed in prison-issue blue jumpsuits Mrs Whalin was flanked by two armed police women during her 13 minute appearance. Detectives say she had confessed to having a passionate sexual affair for

over a year with the boy who plays in the same football team as her son.

She told them it was Sean's idea that they should abscond together to America.

She was charged with "lewd and indecent assault on a child" as well as with "interference with custody". The first offence carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, while the second — which

means taking a child without his parents' permission — is punishable by up to 5 years.

Sean is expected to be reunited with his mother, Beryl Kinsella, on Saturday.

A spokesman for the Monroe County Sheriff's Department described how the pair had been apprehended: "Sean rang his mother and they had a long conversation. After that, the FBI, the Nottingham police and AT&T were able to home in on the number from which the call had been made."

"We got there, knocked on the door, and the weary 14-year-old answered it. We asked him if he was okay and he said 'yes'. Then we asked him if we could see Mrs Whalin and he told us that she 'wasn't decent'. We ordered him to tell her to get dressed, which she did, and then we took them both into custody."

It is thought that the American authorities are likely to deal leniently with Mrs Whalin and could decide to deport her.

Sean Kinsella: to see his mother tomorrow

Law Lords raise Myra Hindley's hopes of release from prison

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

MYRA HINDLEY'S hopes of release may have been boosted yesterday by a House of Lords decision that Michael Howard had exceeded his powers when he increased the minimum period that a double murderer must spend in prison.

The Law Lords ruled that the former Home Secretary wrongly increased from 15 to 20 years the "tariff" that John Piersson must serve to meet the needs of retribution and deterrence. The 3-2 ruling has thrown into doubt whether a Home Secretary can increase a minimum sentence once it has been fixed and communicated to a murderer.

However, even if the decision to give Hindley a whole life tariff is bypassed, her future will remain in the hands of the Home Secretary. The Parole Board, which has already suggested she is suitable for open prison, can recommend her release, but the last word rests with the Home Secretary. In the present climate, no Home Secretary would give her her freedom.

The Law Lords' judgement has implications for other prisoners who have had their tariffs increased because they spend the rest of their lives in jail.

Hindley, 57, currently in Durham jail, is one of those given a whole-life tariff as part of the harsher law and order climate. Others include Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, Ronald Nilsen, the Black Panther, and Dennis Neilson, who murdered men at his flat in Muswell Hill, London.

Hindley, jailed in 1966 with her partner Ian Brady, is seeking leave to challenge the decision that she must die in jail. Her case is likely to be heard in the autumn. She was given a tariff of 30 years in

1985 by Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary. This was increased to "whole life" by David Waddington in 1990, a decision confirmed by Mr Howard this year.

It is understood that the Home Office has already conceded that, if it lost in the Piersson case, it would have to look again at Hindley's position. Piersson shot his sleeping mother and father at their remote farmhouse near Oswestry in Shropshire in 1984 and was given a double life sentence.

His initial tariff of 15 years was increased to 20 years. But Lord Hope of Craighead ruled yesterday that "the Home Secretary does not have a general power to increase the period which he or his predecessor has fixed... once his decision has been issued and communicated." But, the Law Lords said, if the trial judge and Home Secretary had been misled, a tariff could be increased.

The ruling also confirmed that the Home Secretary still has the power to set the initial tariff for offenders after taking advice from the Lord Chief Justice and the trial judge.

Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Steyn also ruled that Mr Howard had exceeded his powers. Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Lloyd of Berwick dissented.

The Home Office said last night that it would carefully consider the Lords' ruling. "We don't know what effect, if any, it will have on other cases," a spokesman said. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, refused to comment.

Kate Alister, of Justice, the pressure group, said: "This means that other cases where tariffs have been raised by the Home Secretary will obviously have to be looked at immediately."

Suicide on houseboat ends hunt for Versace's gay killer

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL McDONOUGH IN MIAMI

ONE of the biggest manhunts in America ended yesterday when police and FBI agents discovered the body of Andrew Cunanan, the gay gigolo and serial killer, in a Miami Beach houseboat only three miles from the mansion where he had murdered Italian designer Gianni Versace.

Cunanan, 27, appeared to have committed suicide on the blue and white vessel, moored at Indian Creek. The gun found by his side was said to be "similar" to the .40 pistol used in three of his murders, including that of Versace.

As the sun rose over the pastel shades of Miami's Deco District, Cunanan's body was removed by police who will try to establish whether he was HIV positive.

"All across the nation, our citizens can stand down and breathe a sigh of relief," said Richard Barreto, the Miami

police chief. Cunanan had murdered five men, including Versace, the hunt for him switching from Minnesota to Chicago and finally to Miami as he expertly eluded his hunters, moving through America's gay communities in search of money and fame.

Despite thousands of sightings throughout the country, it was a houseboat caretaker who alerted police to Cunanan's whereabouts after hearing a shot. More than 100 agents surrounded the two-storey houseboat, among them armed SWAT teams in black balaclavas and bullet-proof vests, who crawled along the deck as a negotiator was brought in. After a tense siege lasting long into the night, police shouted "come out, come out" before firing two teargas grenades. Six masked, helmeted officers stormed the vessel. They later

appeared saying that no one had been found. Questions were already being asked yesterday about what appeared to be little more than a stalling tactic as the FBI swiftly checked fingerprints on the corpse and the ownership of the houseboat.

The houseboat was owned by Tursten Reineck, a German wanted on fraud charges who owns the Apollo, a gay sports club in Las Vegas. Police said there was no evidence to suggest that Mr Reineck, now believed to be in Mexico, had given Cunanan a key to the vessel.

The Versace company headquarters in Milan released a statement yesterday offering "gratitude and sorrowful thanks" to those who had contributed in the resolution of Gianni Versace's death.

Blood trail, page 15

Star of the black and white identity parade

By Richard Dore

AS HE lined up in the identity parade Martin Kamara realised he was in serious trouble. Already under suspicion for extortion Mr Kamara, a heavily built and bald black man, cast glances to left and right down the file of eight men.

All of them were white. Police, accepting that 6ft 3in

Mr Kamara might just have a point in deeming the parade unfair, had decided on what they believed to be the sensible option. They had the faces of all the other men painted black by a make-up artist who left their hands *au naturel*.

The blackmail case was dismissed by a judge yesterday because he found the prosecution had no corroborative evidence. An astonished Judge Michael Astill described the identity parade as "a farce".

Mr Kamara, 43, walked free from Sheffield Crown Court and said: "It was like an audition for the Al Jolson show. As the white men stood in the line up, the heat and the bright lights made their make-up run and smudge. There was no way that the identity parade could have been fair — I stood out like a sore thumb."

The judge, ruling that Mr

Kamara: I stood out like a sore thumb

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هكذا من الأصل

Black feminist saw racism where none existed

Tribunal rejects bias claim, reports Kathryn Knight

A BLACK left-wing sociology lecturer was told by an industrial tribunal yesterday that her passionate beliefs had made her see a racist conspiracy where none existed.

Zimbabwean-born Ruth Chigwada-Bailey, an adviser to Emily's List, the Labour organisation that campaigns for more women parliamentary candidates, had a claim for racial discrimination dismissed because there was no case to answer.

Jessica Hill, the tribunal chairwoman, told Mrs Chigwada-Bailey that she had lost touch with reality and her judgment had been clouded by her feminist and anti-racist beliefs. She said Mrs Chigwada-Bailey, author of a book entitled *Black Women's Experiences of Criminal Justice - A Discourse on Disadvantage*, saw a conspiracy of racism in the most innocent remarks at the drug clinic where she worked.

Mrs Chigwada-Bailey, 38, had sought compensation from Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust for racial discrimination. In 1995 she was employed, via an agency, to be a charge nurse at a Community Health and Drug Service clinic in Camden, north London. She left in February 1996 when she was told that her services were no longer needed.

Giving evidence, Mrs Chigwada-Bailey said she had initially encountered hostility after questioning why there were no other black nurses at the clinic, which was in an

area with a large ethnic-minority population. She said that black people who requested a black nurse were often refused.

She told the tribunal that the white staff at the clinic had created a hostile atmosphere, and had referred to "your part of the world" as if she came from an inferior culture. On one occasion, she said, a senior nurse had suggested she use black magic to secure



Chigwada-Bailey: view was clouded by beliefs

a win for the staff National Lottery syndicate.

Mrs Chigwada-Bailey, of Stanmore, northwest London, said her job was made more difficult because white drug addicts were given preference for treatment at the clinic. She said that when she left she was told that a staff position had been hidden from her.

Ms Hill ruled that there was no case to answer after hearing evidence for 2½ days. She said that Mrs Chigwada-Bailey, although highly intelligent, had been unable to recognise her own failings. Even her husband had agreed that she had taken offence at what were well-intentioned comments.

"We just can't find any evidence that there had been a case of discrimination," Ms Hill said at the tribunal in London. "The applicant clearly feels passionately about women's rights and black persons' rights. For that she is to be congratulated. But she appeared unable to accept there were potentially innocent connotations."

Ms Hill said that black patients received the same care as white addicts at the clinic and that Mrs Chigwada-Bailey had presented a "blinkered view" of the way the patients were treated.

Sean Jones, barrister for the NHS trust, said Mrs Chigwada-Bailey had been sincere about her allegations but was too quick to leap to conclusions of racist behaviour. "She has an absolute, and we say unjustified, belief in her ability to detect racism. Any complaint put to her is an act of racial harassment, and she knows it to be so."

Last night Mrs Chigwada-Bailey, a part-time lecturer at Birkbeck College in London, said: "I just wanted compensation for what happened to me. I have not got a chip on my shoulder. I don't consider every white person to be racist and I have lots of white friends, many of whom supported me in this action."



Sarah Briggs, who wrote to newspaper about poor teaching and staff absenteeism

Byers orders inquiry into expelled girl

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A MINISTERIAL inquiry began yesterday into the expulsion of a 15-year-old girl who wrote to a local newspaper criticising teaching at her school.

Sarah Briggs was accused of bringing Queen Elizabeth's School, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, into disrepute. She had complained of teacher absenteeism and an inadequate response to a critical inspection report. Sarah was expelled after refusing to apologise to the head teacher.

Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards, called for an urgent report on the case yesterday and said that pupils should be allowed to comment on standards. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, also expressed concern.

Sarah, who is due to take GCSEs next year, wrote the letter with three fellow pupils at the voluntary-aided school. The others apologised after an ultimatum from Nicola Atkin, the head. Sarah was still refusing to retract her comments yesterday, claiming to speak for dozens of pupils.

She said: "All I was complaining about was my education because I felt it was suffering. I stand by what I've said, no matter what happens, even though it has caused all this fuss for everyone."

Her parents accused the school of censorship. Her mother, Susan, said: "When all this blew up I did nothing but cry, but I feel a lot better now that people in authority seem to be on our side."

Mr Byers said that he could not discuss the individual case, but added: "We don't believe education is some secret world about which par-

ents and pupils should not be allowed to comment."

Mr Woodhead said he regretted the school's action. "There is obviously a danger of pupils inflaming a situation by unnecessary remarks. But we are clear that Ofsted reports are written not just for teachers, but also for parents and pupils."

The inspection, in April last year, identified "serious weaknesses" at the school, leaving it close to failure. The inspectors said pupils should be helped to develop more self-motivation and teachers should plan lessons more rigorously and reduce disruption.

The report said: "Long-term absences and difficulties in appointing the right staff to key posts have seriously affected the quality of education."

The girls' letter, written anonymously, claimed that some teachers were absent persistently. The school said that four members of staff had suffered long-term illness. A source at the school disclosed that Sarah's own attendance rate was only 77 per cent.

John Carter, the chairman of governors, said the allegations had been examined and rejected. He had written to Sarah's parents offering another opportunity to apologise before an official exclusion hearing in September.

Fred Riddell, who chairs Nottinghamshire Education Authority, said he wanted an early hearing to avoid disrupting Sarah's education. "I am very disappointed that such a situation should have arisen and am determined to do all I can to bring it to a swift and satisfactory conclusion."

Education, page 35

American pi whipped by cream of Japan

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A JAPANESE scientist has again outstripped his American rivals by calculating pi to more than 50 billion decimal places. The long-running rivalry between Yasumasa Kanada of Tokyo University and the Chudnovsky brothers of Columbia University, New York, has pushed the value of pi to unheard-of levels.

Pi, the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, and known to most schoolboys as 3.142 recurring, is a number without end so the latest calculation is unlikely to be the last.

Two years ago Professor Kanada used two computers to verify the value of pi to 6,442,450,000 decimal places. His latest figure, e-mailed to Roger Webster of Sheffield University and a leading authority on the history of pi, pushes the number of digits to 51,539,607,552.

It beats by more than 46 billion the number of decimal places calculated by David and Gregory Chudnovsky. They first calculated pi to more than a billion decimal places in 1989 using a computer they built.

Dr Webster, of the university's school of mathematics and statistics, said if someone read aloud the latest record at a digit a second it would take 1,200 years to complete. "Printed in a book it would be five

times as high as the Eiffel Tower. Stretched out in a line of print it would go three times round the world," he said.

Knowing pi this accurately is of no value. Dr Webster pointed out that just 39 places of decimals are sufficient to calculate the circumference of a circle girding the known universe to within the radius of the hydrogen atom. But he said Professor Kanada, who started at a mere 10 million decimal places in 1983, liked doing it "because it is there".

Dr Webster said it was unclear what the Chudnovsky brothers were doing. But it was rumoured that they were working on a trillion places for pi: there is also a team in Canada.

The march of pi is an index of sophistication in calculation. The Babylonians of 2200 BC gave it a value of 3.125, while the Greeks of 250 BC suggested 22/7 (3.14285), which was closer. Ludolph von Ceulen, a Dutchman, spent much of his life working out pi to 35 places, and when he died in 1610 had it inscribed on his tombstone. Computers have made the task easier, cracking the millionth place in 1973 and the two millionth in 1981.

A Welsh mathematician called Jones was the first to use pi as the circle symbol in a publication in 1706.

Two twits failed to woo owls

By SIMON DE BRUCELLES

EVERY night, for a year, an amateur owl breeder Neil Simmons tiptoed outside to hoot at a wild owl roosting at the end of his garden. He was no Dr Dolittle and the owl remained silent.

Last year Fred Cornes moved in next door, heard an owl hooting and answered back. For 12 months the neighbours crept into the back gardens of their homes in Stokeinteignhead, Devon, thinking they were communing with nature. Mr Simmons kept a log of all his conversations with his feathered friend. They would both be out again tonight if it weren't for a chance conversation between their wives.

Mr Simmons, a computer programmer, said: "My wife Kim was telling Fred's wife Wendy about my owl watching and described how I got the birds to hoot back. She said, 'That's funny - that's just what Fred has been doing'. Then the penny dropped. I felt such a twit when I found out. The trouble is that owl calls aren't that precise and it's easy to make a mistake."

Mr Cornes said: "I'm really flattered. I never realised I sounded so realistic. I love nature and I couldn't resist hooting at the owls. I was absolutely delighted when they hooted back. I never realised that I was fooling my neighbour who was fooling me."

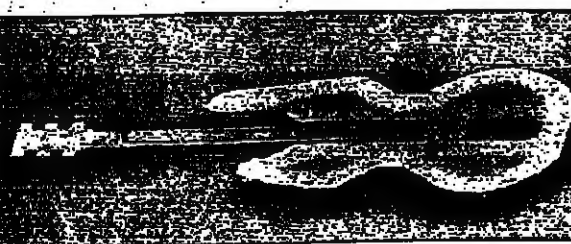
The tiny guitar for people with music in their blood

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

IN THE age of the mini hi-fi and the ever-shrinking personal stereo, American scientists have been thinking small to produce the ultimate musical instrument: a guitar about the size of a human blood cell.

Carved out of silicon, it is a hundredth of a millimetre long, and the width of each of its six strings is 50 nanometres - a nanometre is one billionth of a metre. In comparison, the diameter of a human hair is 200,000 nanometres.

The strings can be plucked by a device known as an atomic force microscope, but the device's purpose is scientific rather than musical. The technology behind its construction offers break-



Not for the highly strung: the nanoguitar

throughs in making ever tinier electrical circuits and micro-electronic machines able to travel round the body repairing cells.

The "nanoguitar" is the creation of a team led by two scientists at Cornell University. Professor Harold Craighead and Dustin Carr used technology known as E-beam, or electron beam lithography, to chisel out the guitar from a single crystal of silicon. Most micro-electrical devices are made us-

ing chemical etching techniques. E-beam, in which a beam of electrons can produce a pattern, is more precise and can deliver finer designs.

Professor Craighead said: "I know we can go smaller than this. The question is how small we can go and still have dependable and measurable mechanical properties. We are nearing the technological limit where it gets harder to get smaller than this."

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OFT repeated

WHAT happens to the usually forthright John Bridgeman when confronted with the City?

The Director-General of Fair Trading keeps giving underwriters another chance to sort out the cost of raising money. Now when faced with high charges by pension providers, he reckons competition will sort this out. But there are nearly 200 life companies and if the market was so efficient everyone would have a pension with Equitable Life.

Extract from COMMENTARY by the City Editor
THE TIMES 16 July 1997

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Boxing's ruling body may challenge decision to knock out fights



Lewis: home defence

By RUSSELL JENKINS
BOXING'S governing body is considering legal action to reverse a decision by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council to ban professional bouts from its leisure centres. The British Boxing Board of Control, fearful that other councils could follow Bury's example, may itself challenge the decision in the courts or back an action by a major boxing promoter.

The ban follows a series of controversies in boxing's heavy-

weight division, including drug allegations surrounding the American fighter Oliver McCall, and Mike Tyson biting off part of Evander Holyfield's ear.

The council voted by 23 to 17 in favour of a ban. Derek Boden, its leader, said that councillors were impressed by the medical evidence against the sport. The vote, which was not whipped, cut across party lines.

Council officers had prepared a report using research by the British Medical Association to suggest that

repeated blows to the head can cause cumulative and lasting damage and that "punch drunk" boxers are more prone to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Mr Boden said: "We decided that professional boxing is not compatible with the purpose of running our leisure centres, which is to promote health and wellbeing."

He said that councillors found the evidence in favour of a ban for professional fights "compelling" but such evidence was less conclusive in the case of amateur boxing

which is not subject to the ban. Bury council decided to impose a moratorium on professional boxing after the death of James Murray in a bout in Glasgow in 1995. It was lifted earlier this year to allow Adey Lewis, 21, the British flyweight champion, who lives in Bury, to defend his title in his home town. Lewis had also wanted to hold his next fight, against Commonwealth title holder Peter Culshaw, in Bury.

It was pressure from Lewis's connections on the council to change its policy that provoked the

debate. They described the decision as hypocritical but their efforts have left the sport with a considerable problem.

Lewis, known as the Mighty Atom, said: "I am very disappointed. This decision is out of order. They obviously do not know anything about boxing. I will just have to go somewhere else to fight."

The Boxing Board of Control sent Robert Smith, its southern area officer, to observe the debate. Before it started, he delivered an impassioned plea that boxing was a

closely supervised sport and that the ban would deter other young fighters from emerging. Mr Smith said: "Some of the arguments they have used are just not valid. They have banned the professional sport but not the amateur sport which seems strange. A punch to the head is a punch to the head, whether or not you are being paid."

"It is not going to greatly affect professional boxing in the area but they have a British champion who would like to defend his title in front of his own supporters."

PoWs lose fight to reclaim £90m in wartime pay

Michael Evans on a review of veterans' claims

THOUSANDS of Second World War veterans held in prison camps in Germany and Italy have lost their fight to reclaim money that was deducted from their pay. A lengthy review, started under the last government, by the Ministry of Defence, historians found they had no case.

An estimated 14,000 former prisoners of war have been campaigning for lost pay amounting to about £90 million at today's value. A review in 1980 of their claim was regarded as inadequate and complaints from the ex-PoWs have increased.

John Speller, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, said in a Commons written reply: "We now consider the matter closed." Overall the review found "no evidence of lack of care, of significant injustice or grave financial disadvantage".

He added: "I know, and very much regret, that those people who have had their hopes raised will be very disappointed. I must conclude that the contemporary evidence does not support the claims that have been made."

Under the wartime arrangements, PoWs who were officers, and medics and chaplains, who were classed

as "protected personnel", were supposed to be given camp pay by their captors. The British authorities deducted the equivalent sum from their home pay to ensure that PoWs and others on active service received roughly the same remuneration.

However, many PoWs in Germany and Italy claimed they did not receive the full camp pay but found it difficult to press their case because all the pay records were destroyed after six years.

MoD sources said there had been a number of misconceptions among veterans. Many of those claiming, they said, thought the British authorities had deducted a percentage of their salary to repay Germany and Italy for the money they had paid the PoWs.

Although there was an agreement between Britain and Germany to refund money paid to PoWs when the war ended each side agreed to waive the payments. The MoD sources also said that other ranks who had sent in claims did not receive camp pay, so no equivalent deductions had to be made.

Claims had also been made by PoWs in Japanese camps. Although a percentage of their

pay was also deducted, the deductions were refunded in full when they were repatriated because of the treatment they received at the hands of their Japanese captors.

Group Captain Alec Ingle, in charge of the Justice for Prisoners of War group, representing 8,500 officers who feel they lost between a quarter and a third of their pay during their stay in camps, said: "The review seems to be far from impartial." His organisation had not been consulted. "We know what happened. We were there," he added.

He said the exchange rate offered for camp pay when ex-PoWs returned home had amounted to only about one third of its true value. In addition, most of the money spent while captive had been on things that, in normal circumstances, servicemen would not have had to pay for.

Graham King, of the National Ex-Prisoners of War Association, and a former member of the Medical Corps, said: "We won't give up." Former protected personnel, like himself, should have received not only a refund of deducted pay, but compensation for missed leave and lost promotion opportunities.



Sheila Bowler is reunited with her children, Jane and Simon, after being freed at the Court of Appeal yesterday

Teacher wins retrial over aunt's death

A MUSIC teacher convicted of murdering her elderly aunt by pushing her into a river was granted a retrial by the Court of Appeal yesterday (Joanna Bale writes).

Sheila Bowler, 67, who had been serving a life sentence at Holloway Prison in north London, was given bail pending the retrial at the Old Bailey after her conviction was quashed as unsafe.

Wiping away tears and hugging her children, Jane and Simon, she greeted

wellwishers on the steps of the court after the judgment. In a statement she said: "I'm enormously relieved at the outcome of today's hearing. I want to thank all the hundreds of members of the public, and other friends and complete strangers, who have helped me. It's great to be out and to have this chance to prove my innocence."

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, sitting with Mr Justice

Mantell and Mr Justice Dyson, were told that the jury at Mrs Bowler's trial at Lewes Crown Court in July 1993 was never given the chance of considering that 89-year-old Florence Jackson's death might have been an accident.

Mrs Bowler has always insisted that her late husband's aunt disappeared from her car, parked close to the River Brede near Rye in East Sussex, on May 13, 1992, while she was seeking help for a flat tyre.

Banker changes route to drive buses

By Simon de Bruxelles

A BANK manager has given up his £30,000-a-year job with NatWest to realise his childhood ambition of becoming a bus driver.

Despite the modest £11,000 salary and antisocial hours, John Burgin, 48, says that he has never been happier. "Banking was originally a career but in the end it became just a job," he said. "Once I knew I was leaving, I used to go outside at lunchtime and watch wistfully as the buses drove up and down. The time had come."

His love of buses was kindled as a boy growing up in Sheffield, where he collected bus maps and timetables. But Mr Burgin, from Nailsea, near Bristol, went on to spend nearly 30 years working his way up through NatWest.

He said: "The levels of stress are totally different. At the bank, things were very political. I worked hard all day and then took work home with me, and it never really finished."

There is stress in driving a bus, around Bristol — the traffic is heavy, car drivers can be rude and cyclists are a nuisance — but it's a different kind of stress and I don't take it home."

His late change to work for Bristol's City Line fleet has raised his retirement age from 60 to 65, but that does not bother him. "It's taken me 30 years to get on the buses and I'm not in any hurry to stop."

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Scientists clone lamb with human genes

The team that bred Dolly the sheep is claiming another breakthrough in genetic research, reports Nick Nuttall

THE first cloned animal carrying human genes has been developed by British scientists. Polly, a two-week-old lamb, has been genetically engineered to produce human proteins in her milk.

Animals, including pigs, containing human genes have already been born. But Polly and her four sisters are the first to be cloned. It opens up the field for rapidly producing identical flocks of sheep or other farmyard animals able to produce human proteins in their milk for treating diseases.

Alan Colman, research director at PPL Therapeutics in Edinburgh, said yesterday: "These lambs are the realisation of our vision to produce instant flocks or herds which express high concentrations of valuable therapeutic proteins very quickly."

The company is working with the Roslin Institute, near Edinburgh, which recently announced it had cloned Dolly the sheep. It was the first time an animal had been cloned from a cell taken from a living adult. Dr Colman said: "They [the new sheep] represent the

next step in the commercialisation of Roslin's pioneering nuclear transfer work."

The lambs were all born carrying additional genes but only Polly — named because she comes from the Poll Dorset breed — has the human gene. The genetic material or nucleus was modified by adding the human gene together with a marker gene. The nucleus was then introduced into sheep's eggs from which the DNA had been removed.

The resulting embryos were transplanted in Scottish Blackface ewes which became pregnant. Blood samples were then taken from the lambs which were born and tests confirmed the presence of added genes.

Until now transgenic animals have been produced using the hit-and-miss method of micro-injection, which involves taking a fertilised egg and simply injecting DNA into it.

PPL said yesterday that Polly and the other lambs would not be used for production but confirmed the commercial potential of nuclear transfer technology and their

progress will now be closely monitored. PPL's existing techniques already allow the economical production of a wide range of proteins from the milk of genetically-engineered animals.

The firm's leading product is currently undergoing clinical trials for the treatment of cystic fibrosis. But the company claims the new technique offers extra benefits, including the fast production of flocks or herds through the quick generation of a small, genetically identical flock.

This would significantly reduce the production time of therapeutic proteins, the firm claimed. Ron James, the company's managing director, said the result would bring the human benefits from nuclear transfer work much closer.

He said the process would now be modified to try to develop new medical products using cows and pigs, as well as sheep. Professor Graeme Bulfield, director of the Roslin Institute, said: "This pioneering work will stimulate new opportunities in both agricultural and bio-medical research."



Polly the lamb with her Scottish Blackface surrogate mother. Polly will produce human proteins in her milk

Battery hens must stay in cages, says council

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FREE-RANGE hens are no happier than birds kept in battery cages, government advisers said yesterday. The Farm Animal Welfare Council said that battery cages should be phased out, but not until equally serious drawbacks of other rearing methods had been reduced.

The council recommended that the minimum area provided per caged egg-laying bird should be expanded to 600 sq cms — about the same size as a sheet of A4 paper — from the current minimum of 450.

All new battery units would need to comply immediately, and existing ones within five years, but only on condition that this is also applied to egg production throughout the EU and to imported eggs.

Poultry farmers have criticised the proposal, saying that it would add 20 per cent to production costs.

About 32 million hens in Britain are kept in battery cages, laying 85 per cent of the 9.6 billion eggs produced annually. Battery cages "arguably cause hens frustration and suffering", a report by the council said, because the birds cannot indulge in perching, scratching, foraging and dust bathing.

But battery cages are much better for controlling disease, temperature, food and water supply, and the space restriction suppresses the birds' natural aggression and avoids feather-pecking and cannibalism common in free-range systems.

Sir Colin Spedding, who chairs the council, said more research was needed into the possibility of producing more docile birds by changing diet or by breeding out aggression.

Elliot Morley, the Agriculture Minister responsible for animal welfare, welcomed the report, and said he would discuss it with the poultry industry.

Man jailed for getting rid of knife

A FORMER Labour councillor was jailed for a year yesterday for disposing of a knife his son was suspected of using in the murder of a girl.

Aubrey Ash-Smith, 49, who denied perverting the course of justice, told Maidstone Crown Court he had boiled the army knife to remove his own fingerprints before he took it apart and got rid of it.

His son Colin was a suspect in the 1993 murder of a girl aged 15, Mr Ash-Smith, of Stone, Kent, must have known this when he found the knife two years later, the court was told. The son was later detained indefinitely at Broadmoor after admitting carrying out two attacks on women.

CORRECTIONS

□ A photograph accompanying a report in later editions yesterday of John Prescott's decision to reject a scheme for widening the M25 was not that of Mr Prescott. We apologise for the error.

□ Shares sold by Sir Timothy Sainsbury (report, July 16) were not from his personal holdings, but from his holdings on behalf of family and charitable trusts, of which he is not a beneficiary.

□ An article "A listed house for people and bears" (May 14)

incorrectly described Peter Burfoot as a solicitor, when he is, in fact, an international banker. He has no connection with Peter Burfoot, the partner at the firm of Chethams.

□ The letter from Lord Bledisloe QC (July 22), an expression of a personal view, should have carried his home address, not that of his chambers.

□ The book *Kids' Guide to Making Money and Keeping It* (Weekend Money, July 19) retails at £3.99.

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Editors unite to thwart fake medical research

Journals fear extent of fraud may damage profession, reports Ian Murray

EDITORS of nine medical journals have set up a committee to tackle research fraud. Their joint initiative is designed to shame medical schools and royal colleges into controlling a problem that brings the profession into disrepute.

The scale of fake research in Britain is not known but "it is becoming increasingly difficult to argue that cases are isolated and rare", Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, writes in today's issue. "The United States has many cases because it has more effective methods for identifying them. In Britain we seem to be leaving it to pharmaceutical companies, a

private agency and the media to discover most cases."

The plan to set up a committee came from Dr Michael Farthing, the editor of the specialist paper *Gut*, who discovered that four articles he was sent in his first year in the job were suspect. The new body will be known as COPE — the Committee on Publication Ethics — and it will encourage editors to respond to misconduct by reporting the authors to the schools and colleges rather than by taking the easy option of just sending the paper back.

The editors see themselves

in the front line of the battle because they are regularly asked to publish articles which have dubious data. If they print the article they give credence to the fraud. If they refuse to print they can be accused of libel.

Dr Richard Horton, editor of the *Lancet*, writes in his magazine that he has been threatened with libel actions twice in recent weeks. "Both instances concern potential wrongdoings. They have bitten back as aggressively as they can."

Last week the General Medical Council struck off John

Anderton, a consultant physician and former registrar and secretary of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, because he was found to be faking data in a clinical trial. He was caught only because Pfizer, the drug company he was working for, employed a private agency to investigate his work.

The agency is run by Dr Frank Wells, a former medical director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. He says the agency is permanently busy with work from drugs companies and health authorities. Since 1989

he has reported 17 cases to the GMC which have resulted in findings of serious professional misconduct.

Recent cases have highlighted the problem. In May Dr Peter Nixon, a consultant cardiologist at Charing Cross Hospital in London admitted in court that errors in scientific papers written by him appeared to be "more than an honest slip of the pen". He was suing a television company for libel and the three-year trial, which was abandoned after his admission, cost the Medical Defence Union £2 million. Two years ago Dr Malcolm

Pearce, a brilliant young consultant gynaecologist at St George's in London, was caught out after he claimed to have performed the first successful relocation of an ectopic pregnancy — an embryo developing outside the womb. When doubts were raised, he could not produce a patient. In a desperate attempt to find a name he altered the records of a woman born in 1910.

Money — or prejudice — may be behind fakery. William McBride, an Australian scientist famous for helping expose the thalidomide scandal, altered results after becoming wrongly convinced that all drugs taken in pregnancy were wrong.

Red tape cut yields £10m for breast cancer care

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE-STOP clinics for rapid diagnosis of breast cancer will be among a package of measures costing £10 million to improve detection of the disease in England.

Funding will come from the £20 million saved from the NHS budget by suspending payments to the last batch of fundholding GPs. Each of the eight regional health authorities is to be given more than £1 million to improve breast cancer care.

Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Health Minister, said: "This is a clear demonstration of the Government's commitment to cut NHS bureaucracy and to put the money into direct patient care. This extra money will ensure that women have access to state-of-the-art treatment for breast cancer wherever they live."

The initiative was announced on the day that Cherie Booth, whose aunt died from the illness, became patron of the charity Breast Cancer Care. "I have experience of seeing a loved one die of breast cancer. I know the effect it can have on the woman who is suffering from it and her family," Mrs Booth

said. The Government decided to make better treatment for breast cancer a priority within two weeks of taking office because of the high incidence of the disease. It is diagnosed in 32,000 British women each year and 14,000 die annually. One in 12 women will develop breast cancer.

Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said that the extra money would help to eliminate gaps in the cancer screening system. "The treatment women get is a lottery depending on where they live," he said.

"The Government's next big challenge must be to address the geographical differences in standards of care and treatment for the other big cancer killers, such as lung and bowel."

Peter Selby, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, welcomed the extra spending but said: "It is important that there are improved services and resources for all cancers."

The money will pay for more specialist nurses and surgeons. Other measures will



Measure of care: Cherie Booth and Baroness Jay yesterday announced support for breast cancer patients

include additional theatre sessions to enable women treated by Bromley Health Authority to have surgery within two weeks of diagnosis; 200 biopsies to be undertaken by Walsall Health Authority on a day-case basis, reducing the need for women to stay in hospital.

The "one-stop shops" enable a woman to learn if she has

cancer within three hours, compared with a wait of up to six weeks using traditional screening methods. Clive Griffiths, a consultant breast surgeon in Newcastle, said women there could have cancer diagnosed and be given a date for an operation within a week of being referred by their GP.

"The patient is given a triple

assessment," he said. "This includes a mammograph, which is read at once, clinical imaging and fine-needle aspiration from the lump for the cytology. It is 99.9 per cent accurate."

"In nine out of ten cases nothing is wrong but the quick diagnosis means that the patient can be reassured immediately and doesn't have to

spend weeks worrying about the outcome of tests. In those where cancer is found we can give an immediate date for an operation."

"All this makes an enormous difference to reducing anxiety levels. If we cut the wait down to just one afternoon that reduces the worry and there is good evidence that this dictates a good outcome."

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Therapy that costs too much to use

THE allocation of additional funds for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer is welcome. The £10 million will, however, in no way alleviate the problem caused by the increasing cost of cytotoxic drugs used in cancer therapy.

Modern drugs used for chemotherapy are some of the most expensive in medicine. Even so, a review of pharmaceutical sales shows that only 1 per cent of the NHS drugs bill is spent on cytotoxic drugs for cancer patients. Five per cent of the drugs bill is spent on all drugs for cancer patients, the same sum as spent on drugs for skin diseases.

Amazingly, the taxpayer spends much more on laxatives (£74 million a year) than on chemotherapy (£59 million). Recently there have been cases in which a patient's treatment for long-standing cancer has not been decided on medical grounds, but determined by the patient's postal district.

Some local medical authorities have ordained that expensive, life-prolonging but not lifesaving, anti-cancer drugs are not the best way of spending scarce resources. One London health authority has banned seven expensive drugs, described by the Imp-

erial Cancer Research Fund as drugs "of a new golden age of cancer chemotherapy".

Doctors accept that funds are not limitless. They do, however, resent being asked to conceal from their patients that there are new therapeutic preparations, such as Taxol for ovarian and breast cancer, Taxotere, which is now usually used for advanced ovarian cancer, or Campto, which is proving helpful in treating cancer of the bowel that has failed to respond to other drugs. That problem will soon increase when other drugs now completing their clinical trials become available.

Peter Harper, consultant medical oncologist at Guy's Hospital, said: "Any medical service has to accept that there are limits to the available cash. These limits should not, however, be implemented by stealth with the doctor being expected to collude with the Treasury. The alternative approach, which would be acceptable, is that the limits that the NHS is prepared to spend on cancer therapy are spelt out clearly, and the nation, through Parliament, then agrees to them."

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Aids drugs 'must not replace prevention'

AN EXTRA £500 million will have to be found to treat Aids patients over the next decade as new drugs enable them to live longer (Ian Murray writes). However, health authorities were urged yesterday not to make the "false economy" of making cuts in prevention funding to meet the costs of new treatments.

"That is now taking place in some parts of the UK, and being considered in others, as health authorities struggle to

afford new drugs," Keith Alcorn, editor of the *Aids Reference Manual*, said.

Edward King, one author of the manual, said that some homosexuals were less likely to practise safe sex as they felt the illness was curable. "This raises the alarming prospect that drug-resistant viruses could be transmitted."

□ *Aids Reference Manual*, NAM Publications (16a Clapham Common Southside, London SW4 7AB; £39.50)

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EU says British art houses must put up VAT

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S art market came under fresh pressure from the European Union yesterday with a warning from the Commission that it will take legal action against the Government unless it raises taxes on auction fees.

British auction houses are "enjoying an unauthorised advantage" over their continental rivals because they levy VAT at only 2.5 per cent on auctioneers' services on imported works of art, rather than the standard British VAT rate of 17.5 per cent, the Commission said.

The warning was condemned yesterday by London dealers. Michael Tollenmach, chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers, said: "Each little nibble away at the advantageous position of London drives more business away from the EU as a whole towards New York, Switzerland and other places."

The move is the latest in a series by the Commission to force Britain's traditionally unrestricted art market into line with the higher taxes on the Continent. Britain agreed in 1994 to apply a 2.5 per cent VAT charge to antiques and art dating before 1973 imported from outside the EU. The level is to rise to 5 per cent in 1999.

London art houses say the levy is already deterring customers. Last year such imports fell from £1 billion to about £600 million.

The biggest worry of the London houses is an EU move to impose an extra levy of 2 to 4 per cent as a royalty to artists or their heirs if the artist's death was less than 70 years ago. The so-called *droit de suite*, widespread on the Continent, is expected to become EU law by a majority vote.

The Commission has given the Government two months to change the law before taking it to the European Court of Justice. A spokesman for the Government said it would "examine the Commission's request but noted that there were 'sound arguments' to justify the present arrangements."

Unhappiness drove out opera chief

Carol Midgley hears Genista McIntosh tell MPs of the stress caused by trying to run a divided Covent Garden

GENISTA MCINTOSH, who resigned after four months as chief executive of the Royal Opera House, spoke publicly for the first time yesterday about her unhappiness and the managerial confusion that caused her to leave.

Ms McIntosh, 50, described the organisation as "diffused and fragmented" and admitted that she had taken the job without realising the scale of its problems. She also conceded in evidence to a Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee that it was her distress rather than ill health — the reason officially given for her sudden departure in May — that prompted her to go.

But Ms McIntosh said that she still had the highest regard for the opera house's staff and that it was her own decision to resign. She denied that she had been frozen out by a clique at the opera house, which has closed to be refurbished with a £78.5 million National Lottery grant. She said there had been a mismatch between herself and the organisation.

"You can be made extremely welcome but still feel uncomfortable," she said. "The ROH is quite a diffused and fragmented organisation managerially... lines of communication can be both powerful and unclear."

Gerald Kaufman, committee chairman, told Ms McIntosh she had "absolutely blown your cover story that you resigned through ill health". She replied: "I left because I was extremely unhappy in the job. There is no doubt that being extremely unhappy causes you to be very distressed and it also causes stress. Had I continued I might well have become ill."

Ms McIntosh, former executive director of the National Theatre, said: "What I perceived when I was there was a level of ownership which people feel about the ROH: it goes right from the most senior people all the way down to people who pay the smallest amounts of money. People feel they own the opera house."

"I felt that opposing myself to that degree of belief and commitment in the institution would have been very difficult. It would have needed a degree of sympathy and certainty about my own position to have gone forward with it."

Mr Kaufman attacked what he described as the clique environment of the opera house. The taxpayer paid a great deal of subsidy to it each year, he said. "Is there not an argument for saying that this cosy feeling of propriety

should be broken open, so there is a new culture? It seems you were the most appropriate person to do it."

Ms McIntosh replied: "There is certainly a case for that."

The Earl of Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, said that Mary Allen, then his secretary-general, had been approached without his knowledge to take Ms McIntosh's place. He was "gobsmacked" when he was told only a few days before the formal announcement.

Her appointment to the post, for £90,000 to £100,000 a year, looked like a "stitch-up job" done on the "old boy and old girl network" — but that was not the case, he said.

Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the former head of the opera house, told the committee there could be a "people's opera" only if more money was invested in it. "You cannot have the people's opera unless people are prepared to pay for it," he said, referring to the recent call by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, for the opera house to offer cheaper seats and to lose its exclusive image.

The opera house receives £15 million a year in subsidy but has an operating deficit of about £4.5 million. Sir Jeremy said that taxpayers were each paying 63p per year. "I do not believe it is an excessive price to pay," he denied that he was still being paid a salary despite having left at the end of the year. He had received a lump sum to pay him until the end of his contract in September because he had been asked to leave early.



Sir Jeremy yesterday said more money needed



Genista McIntosh leaving the Commons after giving evidence yesterday

London siphons unfair share of arts cash

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LONDON devours so much of the cash available for the arts that four fifths of the population are not getting their fair share. The capital receives four times as much money for the arts as any other region of England because the Arts Council has failed to disperse money evenly, according to a report published today. It also discloses that the National Lottery has worsened the disparity.

The *Cultural Trends* report from the independent Policy Studies Institute shows that arts funding bodies spend the equivalent of £39.57 per person on projects in London, while only £7.90 and £9.51 per person goes towards projects in the South East and eastern regions.

Sara Selwood, editor of *Cultural Trends*, said the study showed that the Arts Council, which gives 45 per cent of all its money to London projects, had failed to fulfil one of its purposes. "When the Arts Council was created in 1946 it was given the task of 'decentralising and dispersing' arts and culture in England. Today's research shows that the council's promise to increase arts provision in the regions has remained largely unfulfilled," she said.

Jude Kelly, chief executive of the West Yorkshire Playhouse and a member of the Arts Council's drama board, said: "There still seems to be this idea that people outside London, but particularly in the North of England, don't appreciate culture as much." She said that the arts establishment in London helps each other to get funding. "I'm in London two days a week and I see how easy it is to move from a meeting to the theatre to a dinner party and wrap up a year's business."

The even distribution of funding has not been helped by the National Lottery. Some £18.28 per capita in Arts Council lottery grants goes to London, compared with £2.29 to the eastern region and £1.80 to Yorkshire and Humberside.

Arts, pages 31-33

TV Wuthering Heights forsakes Yorkshire moors

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

DEVOTEES of *Wuthering Heights* are irritated that a big-budget television version of Emily Brontë's novel is to be made in Somerset instead of the Yorkshire moors.

London Weekend Television has been unable to find a suitable location in Yorkshire and intends to make the drama on Exmoor. LWT is using a film location company in Bath to find an isolated "stern and moody" house with mullioned windows and a moorland setting to match Emily's description of Wuthering Heights.

The romantic novelist Jilly Cooper, who was brought up in Yorkshire, said: "I think this is very stupid. Yorkshire has the most wonderful rugged countryside. The film-makers should go back to Haworth where the Brontës lived."

The moors above Haworth Parsonage in west Yorkshire where Emily Brontë loved to walk were the inspiration for her only novel, which was published in 1847, the year before her death at the age of 30.

Yesterday *The Times* disclosed that Yorkshire Water is to spend £20,000 to preserve the ruins of Top Withens, a moorland farm near Haworth which is believed to be a model for Wuthering Heights.

In the novel the house is the 16th-century home of a gentleman farmer, with thick walls to keep out the wind and "a quantity of grotesque carving" over the door. Locations for film versions have ranged from Haworth itself in a 1920 silent movie to the hills of California, where Laurence Olivier strode moodily as Heathcliff in 1939. Dr Robert Barnard, chairman of the Brontë Society, says the film-makers could have found a site in Yorkshire without much trouble. "There are any number of semi-derelict farms near Haworth which they could have used. They are probably more worried about easy access for vehicles, but it seems a shame to me."

LWT was unapologetic yesterday. A spokesman said: "Filming is not due to start until September and the production has not yet been cast. The exterior landscape shots will almost certainly still be shot in Yorkshire itself."

"But we have not found suitable sites for Wuthering Heights or for the Grange, [another house in the novel] and so the search has been extended south. We want it to look as authentic as possible but finding the ideal house is a matter of logistics and accessibility as well."

Meanwhile, the BBC has put its own production of *Wuthering Heights*, rumoured to star Colin Firth as Heathcliff, on hold to avoid a clash with LWT's version.

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Natnwide

Millennium Mini will be made in Britain

BMW approves new model of nation's most successful car writes Kevin Eason

BRITISH workers were given the go-ahead yesterday to build a successor to the Mini, the nation's most successful car. The decision will mean hundreds of new jobs as investment worth more than £500 million is poured into Rover's Longbridge plant on the outskirts of Birmingham.

The 38-year-old model, which sparked a revolution in small car design, is long overdue for replacement. However, German executives at BMW, which now owns Rover, were worried by union unrest and the strength of the pound on currency markets, and considered plans to build the car in Germany or in a new factory in low-cost Spain or Italy.

It has already decided that 1.4-litre engines for the car will be built in South America in a joint venture with Chrysler of the United States. But a decision by unions this week to accept a three-year pay deal convinced BMW to allow Longbridge to keep production of its most revered car.

After a BMW board meeting in Munich, Walter Hasselkus, the



The car that started a revolution in design: the Longbridge production line in 1959, making the Austin Mini that became a Sixties icon, and an original Issigonis sketch of the Mini layout

Rover Group chairman, said: "There is no doubt that the acceptance by associates of the recently negotiated three-year pay deal, together with progress made with trade unions on changes to working practices, were significant factors influencing the decision."

Production will be more than 100,000 cars a year, five times current levels, when the car rolls off assembly lines, probably in 2000. BMW's decision was greeted with relief in Longbridge, which employs 15,000 workers and also makes the Rover 200, 400 and

MGF models. The pay deal, worth 3.5 per cent a year, is in return for increased flexibility, which will mean workers switching to different jobs and even different plants. Rover refused to say how many extra workers would be needed. The original Mini, launched at a

price of £496, was a classless icon of Sixties culture, driven by royalty and stars such as Mick Jagger and Peter Sellers, as well as ordinary motorists. More than five million have been produced. Its success was down to the genius of Sir Alec Issigonis, who wanted to package a

car in a box 10ft long. By turning the engine sideways and powering the front wheels, the Mini had a comparatively roomy passenger cabin. It also had style. Launched with Austin and Morris badges — both companies were part of the British Motor Corpora-

tion — the car captured the popular imagination, and established its own film legend with the car chase in *The Italian Job*. It has been updated with better crash protection and cleaner engines, but the look of its successor has still to be revealed.

Woman 'in grip of husband' stole £420,000

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN ACCOUNTS clerk who claimed she was acting under the overbearing influence of her husband stole more than £420,000 from her employers to help him to finance an "extravagant" life in America.

Nola Morton, 46, who admitted embezzling the money over four years, had taken it under "threats and pressure" from her husband, from whom she is now estranged, a judge at Exeter Crown Court said yesterday. The judge was told that none of the £422,152 stolen by Mrs Morton had been recovered.

The money belonged to Centrax, an engineering firm in Newton Abbot, Devon, where Morton began working in 1990. She was sacked in October 1996 for being absent and within a month the fraud, which had cost the company between £4,000 and £5,000 a month, came to light. Lost interest on the money was put at £66,000.

William Hart, for Morton, said: "The case is that she began to commit the offences and continued to do so under the influence of her then husband, and was particularly susceptible to his overbearing influence. She did it

initially on the basis that it was a one-off episode, taking £7,000 but it escalated to a staggering degree.

There was the additional lever that if she did not continue he would expose her to her employers and the authorities and it was a job she loved. It is difficult to understand the sort of grip he had on her but he knew how to exploit her weaknesses. She kept no record of what she was embezzling, she was genuinely shocked at the £1 million figure. Her own best guess was £200,000.

"It became a monthly habit. The figures got larger and were paid to her husband who led the most extravagant lifestyle. In 1994 he went back to America and is still out of jurisdiction. There is no real prospect of proceedings against him."

Mr Hart said Morton, who had no previous convictions, had given Centrax help in its efforts to gain compensation for its losses, and was full of remorse.

Mrs Morton admitted 15 charges of false accounting and asked for 51 others to be taken into consideration. She was jailed for four years.

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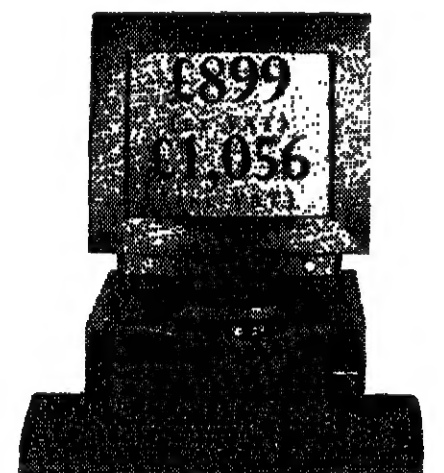
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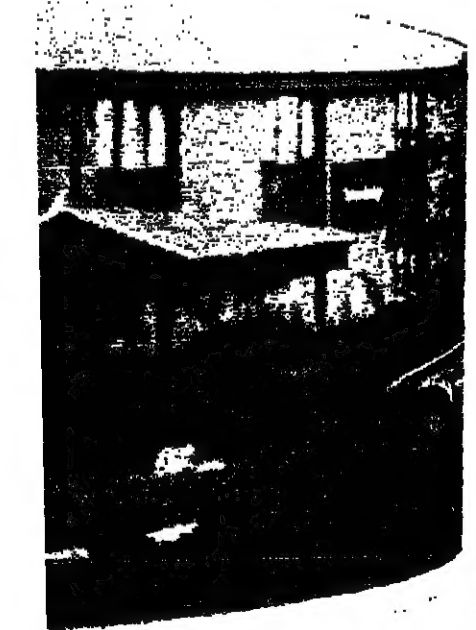
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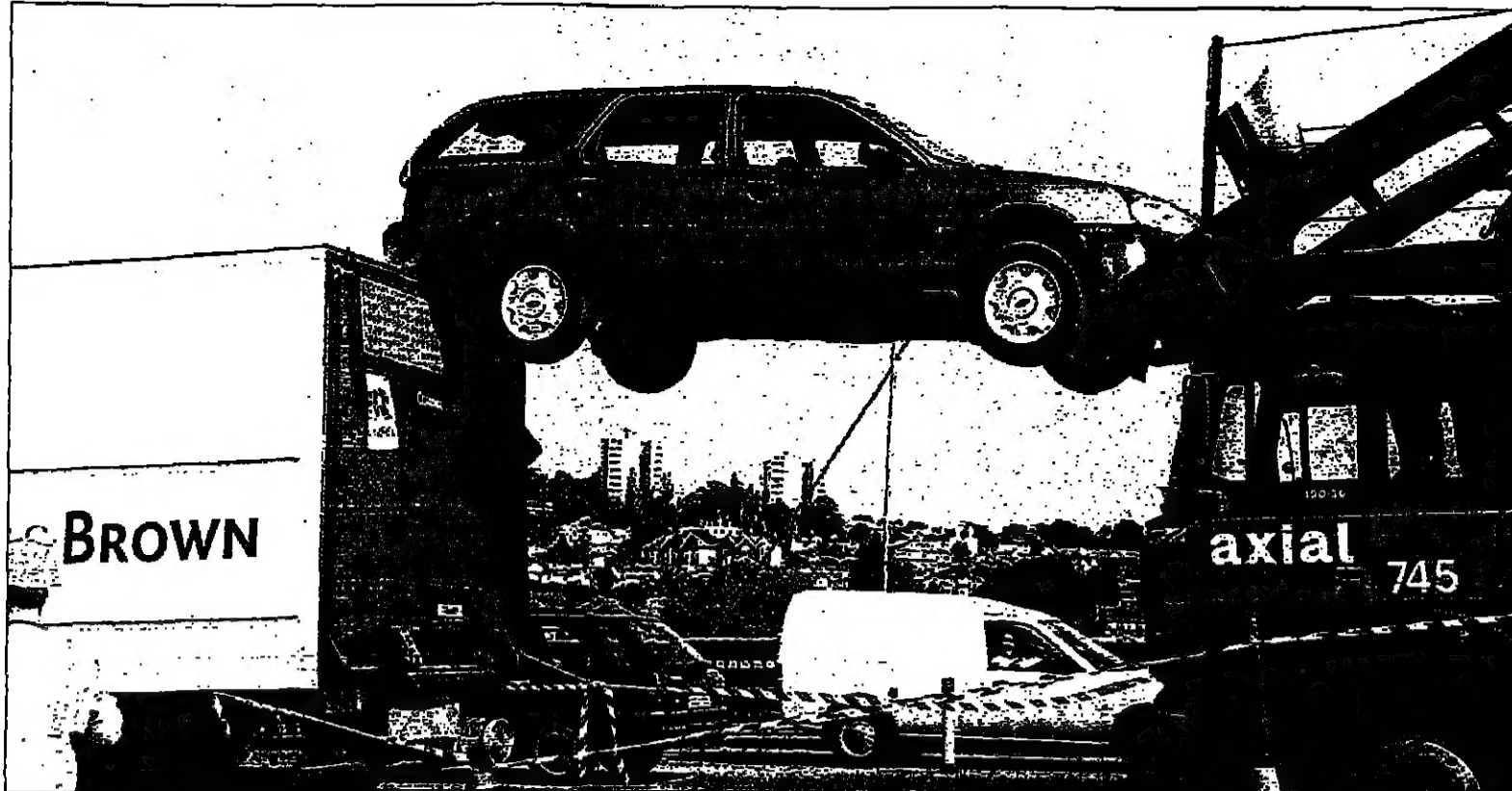
Chief London siphons unfair share of arts cash

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A MOTORWAY accident that looked like an imaginative stunt for a James Bond film presented emergency crews with a real enough problem yesterday.

A new £15,000 Ford Mondeo became the first R-registered car to crash when it was catapulted off a transporter that was involved in a minor accident, and landed on the roof of a lorry in front. The estate model, suspended on its bumpers

Car flies into record books as R-reg sales take off

Lifted above the ground, had been on its way to join hundreds of thousands of other new vehicles going on sale in motor showrooms across Britain on August 1, when

R registrations start. Rush-hour traffic on the M5, near Bristol, came to a halt as firemen brought in a crane to lower the car to the road. Ken Bennett, a spokesman for

Avon Fire Brigade, said: "It was a spectacular sight to see the car balanced on top of the lorries and it turned a few heads. 'It was really very lucky — if the car had fallen off and hit another car, things could have got very nasty.' One of the drivers needed hospital treatment in Bristol for minor injuries after the accident on the Avonmouth Bridge.

Survey reveals sham of white wedding couples

Living together before marriage is not the sin it was, Alexandra Frean reports

MORE than four in ten couples who choose a white wedding are already living together, according to the first government statistics based on the addresses of brides and grooms.

The findings are confirmation of the Church's increasingly relaxed attitude towards couples who set up home before marrying. They also demonstrate the enduring appeal of a traditional, religious ceremony even among non-believers and those who attach little importance to remaining chaste before marriage.

According to the figures, published by the Office for National Statistics, 41.3 per cent of couples marrying in religious ceremonies already share a home. The figure for couples who are marrying for the first time is 37 per cent. The findings are expected to reopen a sensitive debate among the clergy. Many traditionalists reacted in horror when the Church of England

published a report two years ago declaring that "living in sin" should no longer be condemned. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, distanced himself from the report, which one leading Church member described as an "obituary" to the family.

Yesterday, however, a spokesman for the General Synod said that a church wedding should be open to anyone, even those who simply wanted a "nice ceremony". He added: "The thing is, once you have got them through the door to discuss their wedding, you can then start to talk to them about belief."

Clergymen are divided on the issue. The Rev John Binn, of Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge, said he was "not at all surprised or concerned" by the figures in the latest report. "I support anything which helps people to live full married lives. If trying it out for a couple of years helps them get to know each other better, I would support that. I would much rather see a couple living together and then deciding not to get married, than to see them married too early and condemned to an unhappy life together or to divorce."

The Rev Tony Hickton, a member of the synod, was surprised by the figures. "More than 40 per cent is very

high," he said. "I don't want to condemn anyone, but I think that living together is very damaging for couples and for children. If people start living together thinking that they can get out easily, it's likely to prove self-fulfilling. It will undermine their determination when things are difficult to work through."

While acting compassionately, the Church should stick to its guns and encourage people to marry, not live together.

The Office for National Statistics report, which covers 1994, also shows the first decrease in the annual number of divorces since 1989 in England and Wales. There were just over 158,000 divorces, a decrease of 4.2 per cent on the 1993 figure, which at 165,000 was the highest annual total recorded.

There was also a decrease in the number of marriages, with just over 291,000 in 1994, a fall of 2.7 per cent on the previous year. The largest fall was for marriages between couples who had not married before — 174,000 in 1994, compared with 182,000 in 1993.

The average age at marriage has continued to rise. In 1994, the average age of a bachelor at marriage was 28.5, compared with 28.2 in 1993. Spinster married at 26.5 on average in 1994, compared with 26.2 the previous year. The average age for all bridegrooms was 32.7 and for all brides 30.3.

The median length of marriages that ended in divorce in 1994 was 9.8 years, a figure that has remained virtually unchanged since 1988. The median ages of husbands and wives who divorced in 1994 were 37.6 and 34.9 respectively, a slight rise on 1993.

Britons find the English holiday hard to place

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE British are choosing to spend more of their holidays in England. But many do not consider time spent on their native shores or enjoying the countryside to be a real holiday, according to tourism officials.

The English Tourist Board blamed geographical ignorance and poor marketing by holiday firms and travel agents. "In the eyes of many a three-day trip to France is seen as a genuine holiday, while three weeks' spent visiting friends and relatives in Devon is regarded as no more than a break," Tim Bartlett, the chief executive of the English Tourist Board, said yesterday.

David Quarby, chairman of the board, said there was a lack of knowledge about the geography of Britain. The level of ignorance about which comes first, Devon or Cornwall, and what happens north of a line from Bristol to the Wash is quite astonishing," he said. After presenting the board's annual report yesterday, he disclosed that a casual remark from his window-cleaner had given him an insight into why so many Britons did not consider taking a holiday at home. "He admitted he had never been to Devon or Cornwall and did not even know where they were. From an early age his family had simply taken him on a package holiday to Mallorca or Spain and time spent here was not regarded as a holiday at all," Mr Quarby said.

He is attempting to persuade tour operators to create more English package holidays and to encourage travel agencies to promote them strongly. "Only 8 per cent of

British holidays are sold through travel agents," he said. "If people could walk in and choose from a brochure in the same way that they choose a package holiday on the Costa then maybe we could overcome the problem of time spent in England not being regarded as a holiday. We must dispel the myths about British tourism and ensure that staying in England is seen as a genuine holiday."

Research by the board found that holidays at home were perceived to be more expensive than foreign holidays, even though on average Britons spent nearly three times as much per day on an overseas holiday as on a domestic one. Another common complaint was that it took too long to get to a resort, even though it takes considerably more time to go through an airport. Despite the criticisms, the amount spent by British tourists in England reached a record £10.7 billion last year, up 7 per cent on 1995.

The board said that 50 million holidays — involving a stay of one night or more — were taken in England by British residents. There was a 13 per cent rise in holidays lasting at least eight nights. Forty per cent of holidays were taken at the seaside. The West Country maintained its position as the most popular holiday destination.

The board said there were signs that the strength of the pound was discouraging foreign visitors. The number of tourists from Europe was estimated to be down about 6 per cent on last year, although the number of American visitors has risen.

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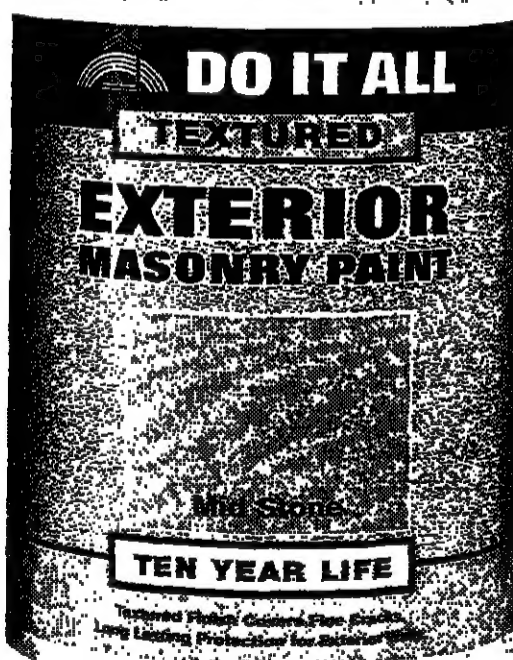
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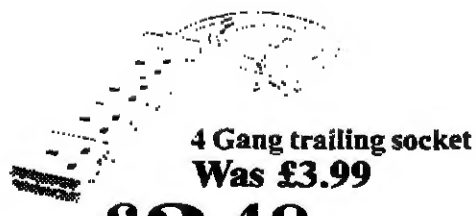
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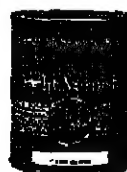
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War criminals' names match Swiss accounts

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

NAZI-hunters yesterday claimed that several names on the list of Swiss bank accounts holding assets of Holocaust victims matched details of German war criminals.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre alerted the Swiss Bankers' Association after cross-referencing six of the 1,872 names against its files on 334 Nazi officials. One was said to be an aide to Adolf Eichmann, and another the wife of the Gestapo chief Ernst Kaltenbrunner.

The World Jewish Congress was also alerted to see the name Dr Hans Wendland, which matches that of a known dealer in looted Nazi art who fenced stolen Old Master and Impressionist paintings worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The scanty details supplied by the banks make it impossible to identify individuals, and many of the spellings are different. However, Jewish groups yesterday demanded the Swiss verify whether the accounts, published in *The Times* on Wednesday, belonged to Nazis or their families. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre office in Jerusalem, said: "We want the money seized and we want verification from the

Swiss. We do not want the assets going to these Nazis, we do not want them to benefit from their crimes."

The Swiss Bankers' Association last night said it knew of the potential Nazi accounts earlier this year. A spokesman said: "They are possible matches, although the spellings are slightly different in some cases. We are in contact with the federal authorities and we are in the process of elaborating how to proceed with these claims." He confirmed that no one had touched any of the accounts since 1945.

Kalman Sulzberg, vice-president of the World Jewish

Council, said: "Documents in the US National Archives clearly show that looted assets and not just Holocaust victims' accounts were placed in Swiss financial institutions to take advantage of Swiss bank secrecy laws."

The six names are:

□ **Wili Bauer**, from Thüringen, Germany. Willy Bauer was an alias of Anton Burger, an aide to Eichmann and deputy commander of Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Burger, an Austrian-born SS captain who helped to deport 10,000 Greek Jews to death camps, is thought to have died at 79 in 1992 in Germany.

□ **Eder, Elise**, Austria: Elisabeth Eder was the wife of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, an Austrian who succeeded Reinhard Heydrich as head of the Gestapo and Reich security. He commanded the concentration camp system and administrative apparatus for the "Final Solution". He was hanged at Nuremberg.

□ **Eser, Hermann**, Munich: Hermann Eser, one of Hitler's earliest associates and propagandists became Vice-President of the Reichstag. He died, aged 80, in 1981.

□ **Schmitz, H. Munich**: Hermann Schmitz was Chairman of the Board of Directors of IG Farben, manufacturer of Zyklon B gas used in the death camps. He is also believed to have been a director of the Basle-based Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a key channel for Nazi gold.

□ **Hofmann, Heinrich**: Ernst Hofmann was Hitler's court photographer and confidant who introduced the Führer to Eva Braun. His photographic collection made him wealthy but he was found guilty at Nuremberg of profiteering, jailed and his fortune was confiscated. He died in Munich in 1957.

□ **Jäger, Mark**: Swiss-born Jäger was chief of the SS's Lithuanian security division, responsible for murdering Jews. He used a false name but was arrested in 1995. He committed suicide in his cell.

Brazilians trace stolen wealth

Rio de Janeiro: A commission set up to investigate the transfer of stolen Jewish gold and assets to Brazil after the Second World War announced yesterday that it had found bank accounts containing \$20 million (£12 million), opened by fugitive Nazis (Gabriella Gamini writes).

The money will be given to Holocaust survivors.



Hofmann, left, a convicted profiteer and Jäger, an SS security chief. Photographs: Wiener Library



Katerina Yannakopoulou has been sought by police since Tuesday's shooting.

Getaway car found in hunt for Greek prelate's killer

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

ATHENS police discovered yesterday the getaway car used by the woman sought after the killing of the Very Rev Archimandrite Anthimos Eleftheriades while he was on holiday here from London this week.

The car, a blue Suzuki Alto belonging to the suspect's brother-in-law, was found abandoned near Kallithea cemetery hours before the funeral of the 60-year-old prelate who had been shot on Tuesday morning outside the priest's house in Nea Smirni, near Athens. Katerina Yannakopoulou, 42, was seen driving off in the Suzuki after

the shooting. A search of Mrs Yannakopoulou's flat revealed a handwritten note over Father Anthimos's signature bequeathing her the equivalent of £41,000 from the proceeds of the sale of his Athens flat in the event of his death. The note indicated he owed her this sum for wooden icons.

Relatives of Mrs Yannakopoulou have been unable to throw any light on what the Greek media report rather liberally to have been a one-sided romantic obsession with the prelate. Orthodox church officials in Britain, however, said the victim had been under "intense and constant" pressure from an unnamed woman. Father Anthimos had been serving at St Nicholas's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Shepherd's Bush, west London, for three years. He was transferred after being removed from an Athens diocese for reasons which remain obscure.

WORLD SUMMARY

Peacekeeper hurt in grenade attack

Sarajevo: A Dutch soldier was wounded by a grenade and a United Nations police vehicle destroyed by anti-tank missiles in two separate attacks in Serb-run parts of Bosnia, Nato sources said yesterday.

The Dutch soldier, whose condition is "stable", was helping to win an armoured vehicle out of a ditch near the town of Kotor Varos when a grenade was thrown at his unit "by a couple of drunken civilians". Two men were captured, one of them by police. The same night, a UN International Police Task Force vehicle parked in the eastern town of Bratunac was destroyed by anti-tank missiles. Americans sleeping in a house near by heard two explosions. There were no casualties. (AFP)

Krenz 'regrets' Wall deaths

Berlin: Egon Krenz, East Germany's last communist chief, who is on trial for the Cold War killings of people trying to flee to the West, broke his silence to express regret, but said he was not a killer. In his first testimony in more than 18 months in court, Herr Krenz, 60, blamed the "confrontation of the superpowers" for the deaths at the Berlin Wall. He said the East German leadership "was powerless to change this" and told how the Soviet Union tightly controlled East Germany. Herr Krenz had previously refused to testify because he considered the trial illegal. He said he changed his mind because the court had been told "so many falsehoods". (AP)

Eta march to go ahead

Bilbao: The government of Spain's Basque region has granted the Eta guerrilla group's political wing, Herri Batasuna, permission to hold a march in San Sebastián on Sunday, despite fears of violence. The rally is in response to last week's huge anti-Eta marches. "Eta assumes... the consequences of the conflict, as crude and painful as they may be," the group said. A march planned for last Saturday was banned over concerns about a backlash after Eta's murder of Miguel Angel Blanco, a local councillor. (Reuters)

Albania curfew lifted

Tirana: Albania lifted a state of emergency and curfew that has been in force since March when armed protests broke out after the collapse of pyramid investment schemes. Parliament, meanwhile, elected Rexhep Mejdani, 52, the Socialist Party secretary-general and a former professor of physics, as President to replace Sali Berisha, who resigned a day earlier after five years in power. (Reuters)

Magic suit priced at \$30m

Los Angeles: David Copperfield, right, the Las Vegas magician, is suing a French magazine for alleging that his long-standing relationship with the model Claudia Schiffer was a hollow sham designed to boost his German audiences (Giles Whittell writes). Best-known for variations on the theme of pulling rabbits out of hats, Mr Copperfield is hoping to extract \$30 million (£17.8 million) from *Paris Match* over its nine-page spread.



Lions kill pair near border

Johannesburg: Lions have eaten a Mozambican man and woman who tried to cross South Africa through the Kruger National Park, rangers said. Torn and bloody clothes were found along with human bones. A third person escaped by climbing a tree, and the fate of a fourth is unknown. (Reuters)

EU specialist appointed Bonn envoy

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PAUL LEVER, the Foreign Office director for European Union affairs, is to be Britain's next Ambassador to Bonn.

The Government also officially confirmed that Christopher Meyer, the current Ambassador, will become Ambassador to Washington.

Mr Lever, a high-flyer, has held almost all the senior political posts in the Foreign Office. His appointment will go a long way to appeasing Germany, where the swift removal of Mr Meyer after less than a year in Bonn was seen as a clear indication that Britain still gave political priority to America over Germany. Mr Lever, 53, will take up his post at the end of the year. He presently heads both the

EU and economic affairs sections of the Foreign Office. In the early 1980s he was seconded to the European Commission. He had also served at Nato.

Mr Meyer, 53, arrived in Bonn only in March. He was John Major's former spokesman until 1996. Mr Meyer was the Prime Minister's personal choice for the Washington job after Tony Blair was impressed with his performance.

East Germans face chaos as river levels rise

BY DEBORAH COLLICUTT

PEOPLE in eastern Germany who are suffering the worst floods in Central Europe this century were braced for further chaos last night as defences holding back the River Oder threatened to burst, adding to the destruction.

After the collapse in two places yesterday of the 100-mile Oder dyke, water has raged north and south of Frankfurt an der Oder, the largest town on the German-Polish border. By yesterday afternoon, low-lying villages and surrounding hamlets in a 30-mile radius of Frankfurt were flooded, residents and livestock having already left.

One area in danger is Oderbruch, home to 19,000 people, where the rivers Oder and Neisse meet and swirling currents are battering dykes and makeshift defences.

The Oder's burst dykes gave way despite being supported by millions of sandbags, now sodden after being in place for nearly a week. Authorities moved 2,300 people out of Brandenburg yesterday and it is unlikely that they will be allowed to return before the weekend, by which time meteorologists predict 15,000 acres of land could be under water.

Many people in the area refused to leave for fear of homes being looted and had to be removed forcibly by police. Manfred Stolpe, the state premier, has appealed for homeowners and volunteers to back the army and firefighters in their battle against "a flood disaster of

unprecedented proportions". But the interior ministry in Potsdam was quick to deter additional helpers from turning up, having enough problems co-ordinating a 14,000-strong team.

The Defence Ministry yesterday sent a further 1,000 soldiers, bringing the total on duty to 8,300 — its biggest non-military manoeuvre since flooding in Hamburg in 1962 — in addition to the fire brigade, police, border police, and technical helpers.

Weeks of rain have raised the Oder to record levels but the dyke on the German side has withstood enormous pressure, despite a few breaches.

The flooding has cost 128 lives in Poland and the Czech Republic and devastated large areas of farm land and countless towns and villages in both countries. At midday yesterday, Czechs held a minute's silence to commemorate victims of the disaster. Sirens and church bells rang out throughout the country as cars paused and people stopped work.

The cost is being calculated in hundreds of millions of pounds — and the bill is rising. The European Commission yesterday increased its offer of aid to Polish and Czech victims to 25 million Euros (£16 million). Eastern Germany is not eligible.

Although yesterday's expected resurgence came to little, water levels rose slightly. Weather remained fine for a third day but heavy rain is forecast for this weekend.

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 10th Index-linked Issue were withdrawn from sale on 24th July 1997. The 11th Index-linked Issue goes on sale today, 25th July 1997. It offers a guaranteed and tax-free return of 2.75%pa compound in addition to index-linking when held for five years.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Starting on 8 August 1997 the variable gross rates of interest on deposits in an Investment Account will be as follows:

Balance in account	Rate of interest
under £500	4.75%pa
£500 to £2,499	5.25%pa
£2,500 to £9,999	5.45%pa
£10,000 to £24,999	5.6 %pa
£25,000 +	5.75%pa

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

Starting on 8 August 1997 the variable gross rates of interest on deposits in a Treasurer's Account will be as follows:

Balance in account	Rate of interest
£10,000 to £24,999	5.5 %pa
£25,000 to £99,999	5.75%pa
£100,000+	6.0 %pa

INCOME BONDS

Starting on 5 September 1997 the variable (Treasury) rate of interest payable on Income Bonds will be 6.5%pa gross. The bonus on holdings of £25,000 or more remains at 0.25%pa gross. The gross rates from 5 September will be as follows:

Holding	Rate of interest
under £25,000	6.5 %pa
£25,000 +	6.75%pa

PREMIUM BONDS

Starting on 1 November 1997 the variable interest rate used to calculate the prize fund will be 5.0%pa. All prizes are tax-free. Full details of how the prize fund will be allocated are published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes dated 25 July 1997.

CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS

Starting on 28 July 1997 the requirement to give one month's notice for a repayment from Children's Bonus Bonds other than the fifth anniversary or when the Bonds mature will be abolished.

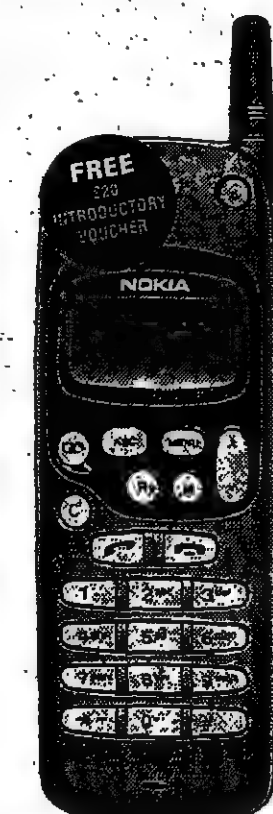
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Starting on 5 September 1997 the variable rate of interest will be 6.5%pa gross.

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FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

French military bases at Bangui, the republic's capital, and Bouar in the interior will be closed, *Libération* newspaper reported. The number of troops stationed in Djibouti, Chad, Senegal and Ga-

The Central African Republic has been convulsed by a series of attempted coups and army rebellions over the past year, and rebel army units now control parts of the

Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, is expected to inform President Patasse of the planned withdrawal during a visit to Africa next week. No timetable has been set for what *Libération* called "the retreat from Bangui", but sources at the French Defence Ministry say soldiers are likely to

In the post-colonial era France has consistently used its military muscle to prop up African regimes in order to maintain French politi-

Diplomatic sources in Paris say that for some years France has been edging towards a more "realistic" Africa policy, but the momentum for disengagement has been accelerated by three principal factors: the increasing expense of

Djibouti, France's largest African military base, is expected to have troop levels cut from 3,250 to 2,800 men, according to *Liberation*. One third of the 840 troops in Chad will be sent home, the Senegal base will lose 200 of its 1,300 men and

□ **Youth plan axed:** A much-criticised plan to replace French national service with a compulsory five-day period during which young people would have been lectured on military life and assessed for a career in the forces was scrapped yesterday. Instead, it is proposed, youths of both sexes should be required to attend a day of lectures on defence matters before their 18th birthday.

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN DURBAN

ous warlord, and self-proclaimed Stalinist who was frank about his need to kill local enemies and rivals. By the time of his death last year from natural causes, he had been suspended from membership of the Communist Party on charges of attempting to murder ANC rivals.

His successor, Siliso Nkabinde, quickly developed

Mr Nkabinde, who denies the allegations, has been expelled from his public offices by the ANC, has suffered a nervous collapse, and has now linked up with a new political movement launched by Bantu Holomisa, a high-ranking defector from the ANC, and Roelof Meyer, a disgruntled National Party member.

Dumisane Makhaye, the local ANC spokesman, blames the murders on a sinister apartheid regime "third force" that still controls the police and security forces. Most observers hint at local feuds and Boss-dominated rackets within the ANC.



FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

Anthony Edwards, who plays one of *ER*'s two busiest doctors, was nominated as Best Actor in a drama. Other contenders include David Duchovny of *The X-Files* and Dennis Franz and Jimmy Smits of *NYPD Blue*.

Pocahontas, the dramatized American Indian girl featured last year in the film of the same name (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The Concerned Women for America censured the company for the "shortness" of her skirt. It said: "What message are they sending our little girls?"

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Bloody trail of the great pretender

Tom Rhodes uncovers the dark side of a flamboyant killer who craved attention

IN LIFE, as in death, Andrew Cunanan, 27, had remained an enigma, at once a party animal with kinky tastes and a desperate killer capable of nonchalantly placing a gun to the back of Gianni Versace's head before delivering a Mafia-style coup de grace.

He was a great pretender who would brag about his breeding, his education and employment and yet he could live unnoticed in communities, barely speaking to anyone other than his victims. It will never be known whether, as many suspect, he had started his mission after hearing he had contracted HIV, or whether the first killings were just a preamble for the stalking and final murder of Versace, whose designer underwear he regularly wore and who may have met him at the San Francisco Opera in 1990.

He was said to have been obsessed by the Italian designer, dropping his name regu-

larly, and probably viewed his death as the most satisfying end to his own life.

An appetite for attention had driven him to the nexus where Hollywood and high fashion meet: to Versace, the openly homosexual gay prince of South Beach.

Friends in San Diego remembered the claims that he was the scion of a Filipino plantation owner when in fact his father was an out-of-work stockbroker. When he moved to Miami, perhaps as much as two months before murdering Versace, he had stayed in a \$36 (£21) a night room at the Normandy Plaza Hotel in the far-from-chic northern beach.

But at night he would cruise the trendy gay bars of South Beach, returning to the community that he knew best. His public manner was fun-loving and generous. In private, he would pursue the dark fantasies of a sadomasochistic culture involving leather, straps and latex masks.



An FBI handout shows the various guises adopted by Andrew Cunanan, who killed in Minnesota, Chicago, New Jersey and Miami

The attention craved by his lighter side appears to have been matched by the killing that sated the darkest depths of his character.

He had flaunted his extrovert traits ever since appearing in a red leather jumpsuit at a high school dance in La Jolla, California, where he was said to be an exceptional student. But police who pursued him from Minnesota to Chicago and finally Miami swiftly found evidence of the other Cunanan: the S&M videos under beds, the transvestite wardrobe and leather thongs. As a teenager, his friends claimed, he had been a "flaming" homosexual. As a

grown-up his tastes developed dramatically.

Cunanan's mother claims her son had read the Bible by the time he was six, but the most powerful inspiration appears to have been his father, Modesto, a former Navy man who as a stockbroker was accused of defrauding his clients and left his wife and children in penury in 1986.

The son had followed his father to the Philippines at 19 only to return soon afterwards, appalled by the squalor in which he lived.

When Cunanan emerged on the gay scene in San Francisco and San Diego in the late 1980s, he did not go by his

given name, but styled himself as Andrew de Silva, a Hollywood chief executive with a mansion on the Riviera. Sometimes he would introduce himself as Lieutenant Commander Cummings, a Yale-educated importer of antiques who wore blazers and smoked Cuban cigars.

He would seduce older men, flattering them with his knowledge of the arts and offering them companionship rather than his sexual services. In turn they would bestow lavish gifts of jewellery and even cars on him.

The lifestyle had ended last year when the money dried up. Cunanan was tired and

despondent when he told colleagues in San Diego he had found the perfect relationship in Minnesota. The man in question was David Madison, an architect who collected Cunanan at the airport in Minneapolis. Two nights later Cunanan invited Jeffrey Trail, a former Navy lieutenant and mutual friend, to dinner. Two days afterwards, police discovered Trail's body savagely beaten with a claw hammer and wrapped in a carpet. When Madison and Cunanan drove four days later to a lake north of the city, the killer used Trail's 40 calibre pistol to shoot the architect in the back of the head. As his

craving and fear increased, Cunanan fled to Chicago where, trawling through the gay bars of the North Side, he discovered Lee Miglin, 72, a wealthy developer. Miglin was later found in his garage, his head wrapped in masking tape and his body riddled with shallow wounds from a gardening tool. After shaving and eating half a ham sandwich, he drove east in Miglin's Lexus, abandoning the car at a lonely Civil War cemetery in New Jersey. The caretaker, William Reese, was swiftly dispatched and his red Chevrolet stolen for the next leg of the journey to Miami.

German police say boat owner is wanted

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE owner of the Miami houseboat in which Andrew Cunanan, the alleged killer of Gianni Versace, shot himself, may be wanted by German police.

They issued an arrest warrant for Thorsten Reineck, a Hamburg businessman, four years ago after he disappeared when suspected of fraud and tax evasion, according to a prosecutor in the eastern city of Leipzig.

The houseboat's owner has the same name and police here believe he could be their man.

A Leipzig police spokesman said Herr Reineck, 49, ran two businesses there, dealing in marketing and real estate. Asked if police believe the boat owner was the same man they are hunting, he said, "It's speculative, but we assume so. It would fit."

Norbert Rügen, the senior state prosecutor in Leipzig, said Herr Reineck had been under investigation for fraud since 1992. Bkk, the central Criminal Investigation Bureau in Germany that distributes international arrest warrants, confirmed he was being sought over fraud and tax evasion.

Records show that Herr Reineck owns the houseboat but by the time Cunanan entered it on Wednesday it had been vacant for some months.

The Clark County Licensing Bureau in Nevada listed Herr Reineck as a Miami Beach resident. He is also said to own the Apollo Spa, a gay health club in Las Vegas.

Killer called the shots in botched hunt

BY TOM RHODES

THE FBI and Miami police department made no mention yesterday that for months the serial killer who murdered Gianni Versace had been hiding under their noses. It was an investigation that had all the trappings of an Inspector Clouseau film.

Nicole Ramirez-Murray, a former friend of Cunanan, lambasted the FBI last night. "They handled it like the Keystone Cops," he said. "I think they bungled this right from the start. I don't think they took it seriously until there was a label, until there was an international name."

The killer had been on the FBI's most wanted list since early last month, by which time he had been seen several times in Florida. Cunanan had even pawned a gold coin, stolen from one of his victims, at a nearby shop and given his true name and address at the Normandy Plaza Hotel. The receipt, as is customary under Florida law, had been sent to the local police department where it had never been examined. That was five days before Gianni Versace's death.

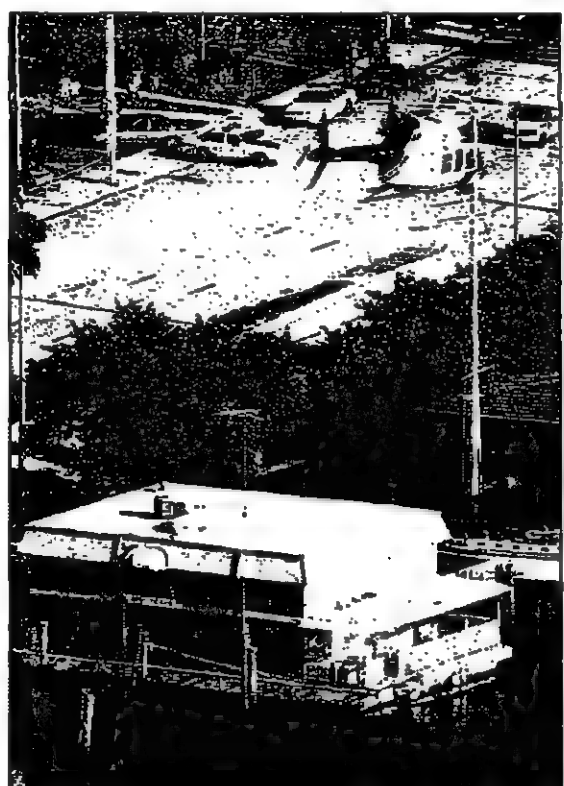
When authorities did discover Cunanan's whereabouts, he was long gone and his hotel room was being searched, not by police, but by a shrewd local television crew. He had left myriad clues throughout Miami Beach, including his passport and chequebook sitting in a red

Chevrolet parked around the corner from Versace's mansion since June 10.

From the start, FBI agents had said they thought he might have remained in the area but, by the time Cunanan turned a gun on himself, there was little sign of any progress in the inquiry. He had allegedly been sighted in New York, in New Hampshire and even dressed as a woman in a bikini on Miami Beach.

Detectives said that they could give no credence to any of the sightings after Versace's murder and were privately depressed that their man had vanished. In fact, he had been living in a blue and white houseboat less than three miles from Versace's mansion.

The tip to police had come from the caretaker of the houseboats who said he had heard a shot. Swarms of police, FBI and Swat teams were sent to the waterfront where they waited for hours before storming the boat. At first they said nothing until information leaked that a body had been found. Fearful to the last that this was another mistaken identification, police waited for fingerprinting tests before a final announcement was made. Despite the euphoria, most must have recognised that it was neither the FBI nor the police who had chosen the time or the place: it was Andrew Cunanan.



A helicopter hovers over the houseboat where Andrew Cunanan was later found. Right, heavily armed police move in after firing tear gas



Shadow of fear is lifted from gay revellers

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

RELIEF swept through New York's homosexual community yesterday as boasts were drunk to the FBI, the late Gianni Versace and the dawn of the "post-Cunanan" era.

All-male bars in trendy Chelsea and Greenwich Village, as well as the more lounge Eighth Avenue, were brimming with revellers eager to put the fears of a fortnight behind them.

"Man, he was a nightmare, and I like my dreams sweet," said Serge Grubb, a leather-clad drinker at Julius, the city's best known gay rendezvous. "For days the thought of Cunanan kept us awake. I swear. Now, it's as if nothing happened."

Others took a less insouciant approach. Dominic Street, who was "passing through" New York, said: "As a tribe, we gays are a lot calmer now. I'm glad he's gone, but the scar he left runs deep. It will be hard to trust someone you meet casually as completely as we used to."

At the Bridge and Tunnel, another tavern catering for

homosexuals, "high five" handshakes were exchanged by men to whom the gesture clearly did not come naturally. The elation was clear, even if it was awkwardly expressed.

A customer said: "This is a day of celebration for us, like it was in Czechoslovakia when the glasnost wall-falling happened. I was in Prague then and I'm in New York now."

This led to a clinking of glasses all round. "I'll drink to that," another enthused.

Bar owners, too, were celebrating — sales were high, with a number of men ordering rounds of champagne and cocktails and attendance almost back to "pre-Cunanan" levels.

While he was still at large, many men had ceased their customary excursions at night, staying at home instead to brood and worry.

New York police, who had doubted their presence in gay areas during the manhunt, said yesterday: "It's back to normal now."

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From the Ritz to Las Vegas



Barrie Larvin, with Rio Rita: "We are very serious about wine — but we like to have fun as well. There's still too much snobbery. Wine is a product of the earth made for us to enjoy."

On the Las Vegas gaming floor, the best is not as Rio Rita, a riot of frills and sequins making money. Within earshot in the cellar below, down stone steps, past wrought iron gates and the inedible grapes of fake vines on a loggia in the middle of the fruit machines, Barrie Larvin, late of the Ritz Hotel, London, sits in cool, climate-controlled tranquility surrounded by the most expensive collection of wines for sale in the world.

"That's part of the Andrew Lloyd Webber collection we're launching today — three cases of the '47 for \$54,000 (£31,700)," he says with satis-

Mixing showbiz with claret, Master Sommelier Barrie Larvin is bringing fine wine to America's high rollers. Barry Wigmore reports

faction as a growling trolley bundles by. In an incongruous mix of the grand, the gaudy and the gauche, Larvin is the man from the Ritz who gave a wine lecture at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas... and hit the jackpot. The head-hunted president of Britain's Court of Master Sommeliers has moved lock, stock and silver tasting cup to the Rio, the newest hotel and money-making machine carved out of the Nevada desert. No wine connoisseur has been given a more delightful, or more onerous, task than he: to spend £4 million building the finest cellar money can buy. The Rio's owner, Anthony

A. Marnell II, had spent his career building Las Vegas hotels for others when, seven years ago, he decided to become an hotelier himself. Two extensions, 2,508 rooms, 14 restaurants and 16 bars later, he is repositioning the Rio in the marketplace. He has spent £125 million on the hotel's latest extension, which includes a vast cellar, with wine shop and five-star restaurant serving 240 wines-by-the-glass. Larvin, armed with a blank cheque, is Marnell's not-so-secret weapon. He has taken to the task like, well, a master sommelier in a vineyard.

In this world of high-roller extravagance, the natural showmanship of a man whose palate has spanned 30 years at the Dorchester, the Grosvenor House, the Hyde Park Hotel, Browns, the Lanesborough, and the Ritz (plus a consultancy for the Tea Council) has come to the fore. When a cellarman dropped an imperial of '86 Chateau Lafite-Rothschild worth £3,000, Larvin didn't flinch. He put the shattered remains on display and got about £30,000 in free television publicity.

Larvin offers a taste for all wallets, and a face for all punters. Like a latter-day Jeeves, in his weekly TV ads he offers dollar-a-bottle sales of \$12 wines. In the cellar, beer and bourbon palates have been invited to \$25-a-head tastings of \$2,500-a-bottle Chateau Mouton-Rothschild '45. "We showed how to open it, and how it is decanted," he says. "The people had that for nothing. Then we opened another 17 bottles and sold it for a hundred bucks a glass. That's still a tremendous saving."

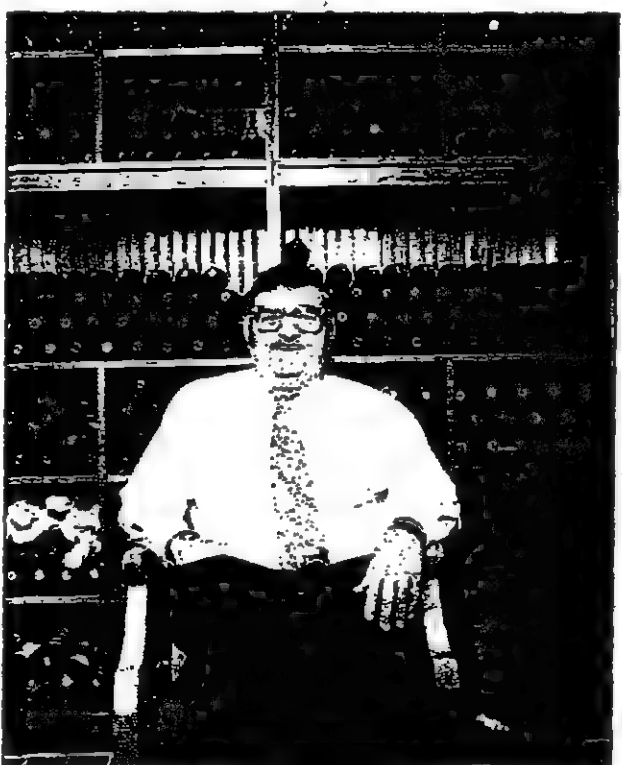
For Independence Day they opened an \$11,000 bottle of 190-year-old Scotch from the Thomas Jefferson collection and sold it at \$100 per half-ounce sip. They are offering the empty bottle for \$5,000. Empty and wooden wine cases are snapped up. (They have the Jefferson Madeira as well but are saving that for the millennium celebrations.)

There are souvenir wine glasses, corkscrews, key chains, T-shirts and autographed Barrie Larvin photos. Chums back in London watch

with interest akin to horror. "Barrie has obviously embraced the American Dream," grins Tom O'Connell, his former boss at the Ritz. "I think they are probably amazed," concedes Larvin. "There's nothing wrong with London hotels. They are excellent, but they are very sedate and sombre. At the Rio we are very serious about wine — but we like to have fun as well."

Larvin, a London postman's son, started his career as a 16-

minutes it was a done deal. That was it. I phoned Jean, my wife. In London and asked what she thought about moving to Las Vegas. She said, 'Las Vegas — fine. So here we are.' In six months the Rio's wine sales have soared from 200 to 2,000 bottles a day. They are still rising. "The amazing thing is that high-end wines sell like candy," he says. "Every weekend we sell \$70,000 in high-end wine, so



Larvin: known as the Sid Vicious of the wine world

year-old trainee-manager at the Dorchester in 1963. His father, now 79, told him: "I'll give you a week. You're too bloody clumsy to be a waiter." He taught himself about wines by studying in London libraries. "I don't think my dad ever drank a glass of wine in his life," he says.

As president of Britain's Court of Master Sommeliers, he has been lecturing in America since 1984. He was staying at the Rio last year after flying in from Atlanta with his 22-year-old son, Tony. "Someone told Tony they were looking for a wine guy. He said: 'There's only one person who can do that — my dad.' I saw them and in 90

every month we have a quarter of a million dollars if we want to use it."

"Auctioneers invite us to wine sales. The word goes round, 'The Rio's in.' We move the market. We have changed the whole wine scene. We are trained by my kids in wine service and knowledge."

The Ritz, of course, may argue that bigger does not necessarily mean better. Isn't he in danger of becoming to

wine what the Getty museum is to fine art?

"Not yet, no. We drive a hard bargain. We walk away if prices are ridiculous. Also, in museums you get a product and you hold it. At the Rio, we get a product and we pour it. There's still too much snobbery around wine, particularly at the top end. Wine is a product from the earth made for us to enjoy."

Last month Larvin invested £240,000 of his bonanza buying champagnes, clarets and desert wines at the auction of Lord Lloyd-Webber's cellar. He already had £156,000 worth of rare burgundies, and 135 years of the legendary Chateau d'Yquem valued at £1,250,000.

The vintage Chateau d'Yquem stretches in an unbroken chain from 1855 to 1990, racked along 30ft of shelf at shoulder height. "I am waiting for that Yquem to go," says Larvin. "Everything is for pouring. There will be one crazy day down here when we open one of these cabinets, take one of the Yquems and pour."

"In fact," he licks his lips. "maybe that's today. In fact... Yes."

"Noon," says a colleague. But Larvin is leaping to his feet, pulling out keys. He unlocks a cabinet, lifts a dark bottle. "This is a '21 Yquem, right? Price at auction, \$7,000 to \$9,000 a bottle."

Glasses are assembled. Corkscrew emerges from a pocket. The seal is cut. The cork slides. Rich amber pours. Larvin's nose dives into the glass. Reverent sips. It is smooth and sweet, tasting of sherry... madeira... marsala... with a long aftertaste.

"When I drink a wine like this, I wonder what's this bottle gone through? The grapes were picked just after the First World War. While it has been resting we've developed caviar, Concorde, space travel. There's been another world war."

"It's doing nothing for the wine if all you do is put it in a case and hold it for 20 years then sell it on. I just want people to enjoy it."

He calls an assistant, hands him the rest of the '21 Yquem. "Be very careful with it, boys. Yes. Look at the colour. This is the '21 Yquem from the collection. We'll sell it for fifty bucks a glass, right? That's right, yes. Put something up on a board. And call Rio Rita. Get her to announce it."

The punters vote for Lady Luck

Eve-Ann Prentice on the winner of the betting shop stakes

Ellen Killen is Lady Luck. She is in charge of the men and women of Glasgow spin dreams and pin hopes on the look of a horse or greyhound, or the drop of a lottery ball.

Ms Killen's room is full of men with lined faces and gnarled hands. Most are unemployed, one or two gnaw nicotine-stained fingers as they watch the images on high-tech screens. Most talk in hushed tones, as if they are in church. Nearly all of them regard this room as home from home, better than home for some, and Ms Killen is their friend, mentor, and, sometimes, tormentor.

Neat and trim, with the air of a caring and competent ward sister, she is manageress of a betting shop in what is arguably Scotland's hardest city. She is a celebrity in Glasgow after winning the Betting Shop Manager of the Year Award, courtesy of the *Racing Post* and the customers who nominated her.

Frances McKean, who lives on the once notorious Gorbals estate, is Ms Killen's assistant and together they and five other women in the Ladbroke's branch soothe and pamper the egos of scores of punters.

Many more women are gambling nowadays, says Ms Killen. Ladbroke's estimates that 30 per cent of its customers and 70 per cent of its employees are women.

"The British lottery has made betting look respectable and women come in far more," says Ms McKean, 49, a divorced mother of three. "Ladbroke's has spent £10 million upgrading its shops. Women now feel comfortable coming in."

Her branch of Ladbroke's in the Shawlands area of the city has bright, light walls, an airy atmosphere and tidy racks of betting slips. She sells coffee for 40p, a cup and threw a Fourth of July party for the regulars, treating them to the chance of a free Yankee (a bet placed over four races) in the Irish lottery. The Irish lottery is far more popular in Scotland than Camelot's event, she says.

"Ten years ago, it would have been only the occasional female who came in, because 1 per cent of the total, now it's coming up to 10 per cent," she says. "What I would like most now is to become area supervisor, managing ten shops. I also like customer service and PR, that's what I aim for."

Ms Killen, 44, and Ms McKean have the odd flutter, on the Grand National or the Derby, but they must place their bets with the opposition. "I am lucky — sometimes I get a feeling about a horse and I have to back it," Ms Killen says.

"I am not so lucky," says Ms McKean. "I go to the bingo and it's all the others who win, never me. I think some people are born lucky, they have a sort of halo round their heads and they win time after time. I think women gamble on a name, something that strikes them in a name, while the men study form."

Do men resent the increase in the numbers of women bookmakers and gamblers? They used to at first, but not now, says Ms Killen. "If a woman comes

in and asks a man for advice he can act the gentleman; he loves it."

Unlike a publican, a betting shop manager cannot bar a punter if he seems to be spending more than he can afford. "I had a Chinese customer," Ms Killen says. "They love gambling, but he started laying bigger and bigger bets and losing all the time. I prayed for him to win, it was awful to watch, but I am not allowed to tell anyone to stop."

They reckon they are performing a social service for the mostly unemployed daytime clients. Many men spend all day in Ms Killen's shop, spending just £2. "It gives them a chance to get dressed up and have a conversation. It stops them going mad," she says. The women are training a man to become a Ladbroke's manager and what drives them mad is when customers who do not know better assume that he is in charge.

But the women have their laughs, too. There are the crazy bets, such as wagers on proof of the existence of the Loch Ness monster, or whether an alien will be discovered in New York by the year 2000. A few years



ago, Elvis Presley sightings were all the rage. "We put an Elvis graphic on our screens," Ms Killen says. "Then there was the day a punter came in with £15,000 stuffed in a duffel bag. 'I know the man; he came in early so, I would have time to count it all before the race,' she says."

"It was a sure fire bet, a favourite — and he didn't win. He wasn't upset, though, because he knew what he was doing."

"I have never seen a woman put on big bets, except for other people. You can tell it's for other people because they are so unconcerned, whereas if it was her money..." But surely some people become upset when they lose? "Men can get over-emotional sometimes, it's a communication problem," she says. "I don't react."

On the floor of the betting shop, the men are supremely polite and full of praise for the women who oversee their lives. Larry Zigman is 88 and has been a betting shop almost every day since he left school. "There's nothing to do," he says. "If you are lucky, you win now and again. I have won a few times, I have won a lot of dogs. There's too many twisters on the horses."

Meanwhile, Ms Killen, Bookmaker of the Year, takes another meagre bet. "Gambling is an honorable thing," she says. "It's an understanding between the customer and the bookmaker. We all know the rules."

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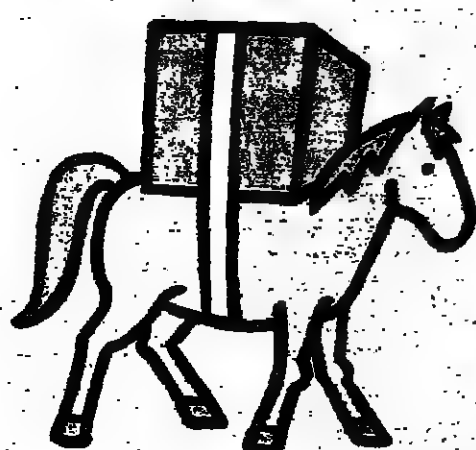
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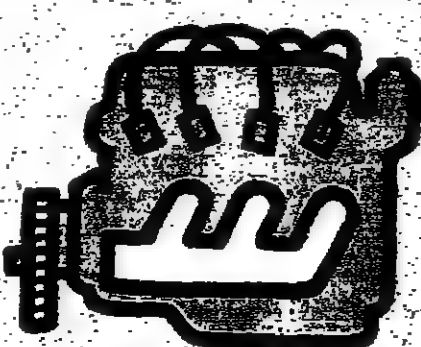
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Paddy and Tony bury the hatchet

The Lib-Lab rapprochement hangs on PR, says John Lloyd

The Liberals have long seen themselves as the civilisers of the Labour movement, and do so still. Gladstone sought to enrol the newly enfranchised working class into his crusade to assist the wretched of the earth. Now Paddy Ashdown seeks to rub away at the Prime Minister's agnosticism over proportional representation.

There is, however, much more at stake than leading the ignorant to the light, which is why Mr Ashdown and his senior colleagues are willing to countenance walking into the flytrap which their participation in the Cabinet policy subcommittee could become.

The prize is proportional representation. That is a prize so precious — capable of transmuting the base metal of Liberal parliamentary representation into the gold of the three-figure cohort in Westminster to which their national vote would proportionately entitle them — that it is worth a larger risk than that which they now run.

Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown like each other very much, and are happy, even anxious, to show it. Those attending D-Day ceremonies at Westminster shortly after Mr Blair became Prime Minister were surprised at the obvious affection between the Blair and the Ashdowns. Their hugging and kissing, backslapping and smiling spoke of past intimacies.

No doubt this springs from personal friendships. But it also springs from shared convictions. A former commando does not join a no-hope party from naked ambition. Mr Ashdown has beliefs, especially in community and education, which chime well with the passions of the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair the rationalist believes it is silly for two parties with so much in common to indulge in aggressive rhetoric in the Commons for the sake of convention. A common purpose should, he believes, issue forth in common action: further, he believes that a move into the centre of the political arena is a long-term necessity. It was one of these remarkable coincidences that, on the same day the proposal to include the Liberal Democrats into a new Cabinet committee was announced, the news broke that six major trade unions were attempting to retain the power which the existing Labour Party constitution gives them. As the Liberals move centre-stage, the unions are being hustled off, kicking and shouting, stage-left.

But will Mr Blair espouse proportional representation? And if he does, will he have the nerve to convert his party and his Commons colleagues to an idea whose time may have come, but whose implementation may be painful to their prospects for re-election? Mr Ashdown thinks it is possible. He believes the first-past-the-post principle is being sliced away by the decisions to grant new assemblies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ire-

land at least an element of PR. Mr Blair has also conceded that PR will apply in the European elections of 1999.

The citadel of Westminster is surrounded by PR forests — creeping like Birmah Wood, in the last act of *Macbeth*, ever closer to the walls. The intellectual case seems to have been implicitly lost. If the merits of first-past-the-post are not so clear as to recommend the system to new British assemblies, why are they thought so resonant in Parliament?

But intellectual is as intellectual does. Power, any realist would argue, must be what drives politics and the calculations and decisions of leaders. In this, Mr Ashdown mobilises another set of hopes: that Mr Blair, despite his continuing posture of "remaining to be persuaded" about PR, is in the end more interested in changing politics than in preserving party.

First-past-the-post is as much part of the tribalism of Labour as were the unions. It plays to the "us" and "them" split in British society, against which the Social Democrats of the 1980s would rail and whose would they claimed to break. They broke themselves instead: but their soul went marching on in the person of Mr Blair, who often resembles David Owen with a longer fuse.

The class system is still with us, but in fragments, because it is no longer a system. It is, rather, a series of social and economic interests of varying powers which the political and business elites seek to mobilise and reshape to their designs.

In such a world, the classic response to the canvasser that "we've always been Labour/Conservative/Liberal here" makes no sense. In such a world, where choice is a daily necessity, the restriction of political choice to vast permanent parties based on decaying classes is absurd. But it is harder to slough off the old system than it is to rid oneself of the troublesome union barons.

Present voting arrangements give British political power its freedom. It relieves ministers from the continental grind of getting policies agreed in committees with micro-parties which have been given a grasp of the major party's windpipe by commanding a few percentage points of the vote. It would be folly to ditch it, especially when it had just produced such a liberating majority.

Yet Mr Blair may do it. He has shown that his passion is for modernity. First-past-the-post is a grand old British piece of traditional flummery which underpins the elected dictatorship and gives an illusion of strength to political leaders who must be reminded of the fragility of their tenure. It is worth the risk of incorporation to have a chance to snatch that prize.

Mr Ashdown is right. We should hope his famously grumpy party supports him.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman



The party of orthodoxy

Labour has changed its policies, but not its habit of angry intolerance

The conversion of Saul to St Paul on the road to Damascus strikes the student of human nature differently from the theologian. Saul's belief changed, but Saul did not.

Saul stopped attacking Christians as a Jew, and Paul started attacking Judaism as a Christian. Whatever it was that Paul believed, he became gripped by an intense certainty that he was right, and filled with indignation against those who disagreed. He started to lay down the law. His instinct was authoritarian.

Bruce Anderson writes for *The Spectator*. If he had been chronicling the age of St Paul rather than of Tony Blair, he might have surveyed some of the views Paul had held and written something like this: "If we seek to understand the divergent stances Paul has taken on religion, we search in vain for any general principle." As it is, Mr Anderson finds himself assessing new Labour. "If," he writes (July 19) "we seek to understand the divergent stances which Labour has taken on cigarette-smoking and homosexuality, we search in vain for any general principle."

John Lloyd, my fellow *Times* columnist, sounds similarly puzzled. On this page on July 24 he notes "the growing list of pleasures that new Labour wishes to curtail, control or ban... hunting, shooting, smoking, drinking... on what other earthly pleasures does the cold eye of new Labour light? Ah, cars."

You could call this authoritarian. He suggests. But then Mr Lloyd turns his attention to the Government's more permissive attitude to homosexuality. This, he writes, "by contrast an unequivocal blow for liberty."

I suggest to Mr Anderson that there is no difficulty in finding a unifying general principle; and to Mr Lloyd that there is no contrast between Labour's attitudes to smoking and to homosexuality. In any survey of the party's approach to the personal habits of the citizenry, there is nothing puzzling, nothing to be explained. Labour has always been and remains a party of orthodoxy. Its interests are profoundly authoritarian. The huge change we have recently seen in the party is a change in the substance of Labour's orthodoxy. Orthodoxy change; but the habit of orthodoxy stays the same.

John Lloyd should not conclude that changes to the law on homosexuality are an unequivocal blow for

liberty. Liberty means letting people do what you believe may be wrong. The liberty to do what the Government thinks is right is a liberty Stalin would have been happy to accord.

New Labour does not believe homosexuality is wrong. This Government's altered attitude towards the expression of homosexual love reflects nothing more than a generational change in attitudes towards consensual sex. The view now fashionable is that physical and emotional love is good for people, so long as there is no "victim". Being good for people, it should not be punished or discouraged. Indeed it should be encouraged, and that is why those on the Left who have argued for the decriminalisation of homosexuality so often go on to make the case for promoting it — some believing that the State itself should do so.

To see this as a great blow for tolerance, a new openness to diversity, is a grave error. The people who want to put books extolling homosexuality into school libraries are the same people who want to remove books they accuse of encouraging "undesirable" attitudes. These people are not the standard-bearers of liberty, and those who rally to their banner believing it to be the banner of tolerance should beware. Those ready to raise you up because they approve will be quick to tread you underfoot if ever they disapprove. Trust most in the protection of those who may hate what you do, yet respect your privacy and liberty to do it.

I am far from claiming that the Conservative Party offers any guarantee of such protection. Tories have their own PC, but they call it Victorian values. The flame of liberty burns fitfully among them and increasingly fitfully among Liberal Democrats. Liberty, paternalism and authoritarianism all have good pedigrees in the Tory party and the struggle between them is ceaseless. My purpose here is to point out that claims that liberty is winning in the Labour Party are misleading.

Consider Labour's mental anguish over abortion. The philosophical harbour offered to any libertarian in such matters is closed to a new Labour thinker. Those of us who believe in liberty find no difficulty — at the parliamentary level — in accepting that such an issue might be considered a matter of conscience by party whips. On the issue itself, we conclude that abortion might or might not be evil, but that the moral choice should be left to the mother.

A Blairite has difficulty with this, and Mr Blair shows signs of having difficulty with it himself. His instinct is to decide whether or not abortion is bad. If it is bad, his instinct is to try to put a stop to it. If it is not bad, then surely it is good? And many on the feminist Left do indeed take that view and would seek to facilitate abortion.

A Blairite's reflexive reaction to such questions is to "take a view" on whether to prohibit or promote. Once taken, this view should be a matter of party policy. That there are practical reasons why new Labour is unable to follow that reflex in this case lends a palpable unease to their whole consideration of the matter.

It is easier with sex and tobacco. New Labour genuinely believes smoking is harmful and homosexuality is not. There is, therefore, no contradiction in banning one and decriminalising the other, but both moves spring from an unspoken premise: if something is harmful, it ought to be stopped. Whole categories of behaviour which the Labour Party used to believe harmful have been reclassified and removed from the list. The profit motive, educational selection, nuclear weapons, strike-breaking... the roll call is extensive. Into the gaps they leave, new taboos are moving: sexism, racism, homophobia, smoking, akkappa, noisy neighbours... but what remains is a principled determination to improve mankind by legislation.

And beneath that tone there is a darker undertone, quieter but persistent: a huge irritation and impatience

with dissent which threatens the project. I have watched the Labour Party in the Commons for 20 years now and I have to report that, for all the revolutionary change it has made to policy, the habit of angry intolerance towards dissent from within its ranks remains unchanged. The bright-eyed, designer-clad modern men and women who have crowded onto the Government benches since May 1 differ in so many ways from the crumpled, nicotine-stained trade-union-reared men who sat there 20 years ago, but they share this: the mentality of the gang.

There is no difficulty in explaining this. It arises firstly from the roots of the Labour movement in organised labour. The need for solidarity is paramount in any army, and that includes an industrial army fighting for its rights. Those who break the moral consensus are unconsciously bracketed with scab labour. But there is a second strand to the rope of new Labour's moral halter, and it is a Celtic strand. Gang mentality is a very Scottish phenomenon.

I see that John Haldane, Professor of Philosophy at St Andrews, writing here on Tuesday, has a nicer term for it: "moral community". Professor Haldane commends to us the idea that new Labour is a characteristically Scottish force, for "as one moves north, the soil of moral community grows deeper". Moral community regards the English (particularly in London) as giving excessive "emphasis to freedom and choice, as against habits of acceptance, self-sacrifice and duty".

Having some small experience of Scotland, and having long observed the parliamentary Labour Party at Westminster, I think Professor Haldane's suggestion is dead accurate: a somewhat Celtic spirit — and intolerance of what he calls "rootless, self-indulgent individualism" — does infuse this Government.

Can I tell him that as an Englishman, I find it odious? I shudder at the phrase he celebrates: "moral community". Not everyone will thank "the missionaries of St Columba", whom he commends, for sending south this type of priggish, sourly self-satisfied, net-curtain twitching, neighbourhood-police mentality. I look forward to the day when the good Professor's missionaries go home. They will shortly have their own Parliament in which to preach.

Is Dearing the end of Oxford?

Michael Beloff QC

defends the idea of an elite university

What would Oxford want in the best of all possible worlds? It would want excellence of achievement, equality of opportunity, and a distribution of public moneys to reinforce its eminence across a range of research. It is by these ideals that we, no longer dreaming of Dearing among the spires but confronted with the real thing, will judge the Government's reaction to the massive report.

Dearing emerges at a time of year when Oxford colleges are under graduate-free zones. They have been let for the vacation to the conference and tourist trade while the students are out in the workplace. The centrepiece of Dearing — annual tuition fees of £1,000 — may have been stigmatised as a breach of the principle of free higher education, but it only makes explicit the continuing erosion of student grants. Every week spent as a part-time sales assistant at some local superstore (to pay in turn for inter-railing in Eastern Europe), is a week lost to the student's academic preparation or revision.

There is nothing intrinsically offensive in the idea that students, whose degrees are passports to prosperity, should pay for the privilege. But any increase in cost to the student will inhibit applications from prospective entrants of low and middle-income earning parents: the proposed threshold for free tuition is set very low. We spend more time on my governing body discussing ways of widening our catchment area than on any other topic. Dearing's proposals will not help us — rather the reverse. Debt deterrents for that reason alone, a graduate tax would have been a better option.

Unless there is a wholesale change in attitude so that the potential student (and his parents) will think the product worth buying, then Oxford risks becoming once again a redoubt of the rich. This risk is increased by the Government's recent decision to cut Oxford's grant increase to 1 per cent with its inevitable knock-on effect on student rents and allied charges. The Secretary of State's proposal for a supplementary hardship plan of £250 per year to those who need it does not substantially add to what the university and individual colleges already provide for the truly hard case.

The introduction of tuition fees is not by itself going to solve university cash crises — even if the Treasury was prepared to hypothecate the sums raised and give it all to the universities. There is a black hole in the proposals. It is unclear where the money which the poorest students will not have to pay, but which the universities will need, is to come from. (Top-up tuition fees are properly ruled out, but their absence requires some other source of funds.)

In the new diverse university system (Oxford, Redbrick, Plate-glass, former polytechnic), while all universities are equal, some are more equal than others. So they should be. Higher education is worldwide. Britain needs world-class centres of excellence. Dearing is right to stress the importance of new technology for all universities, but wrong to set his face against an elite within it. It is vital not only that fees go towards university expenses, but also that they are not redistributed to the detriment of the best universities.

The academic community is constituted by both teachers and the taught. Reaction to Dearing has concentrated on the impact on students. The Government must also grasp the nettle of academic salaries. These are perilously low. The Dearing report recommends that Oxford college fees should be reviewed by managers so as to ensure that extra funds represented "a good use of resources". While resounding the slogan, this does not dissolve the clouds. Any removal of public subsidy for the college fees would threaten the twin pillars of Oxford education, the collegiate system and tutorial by tuition. Direct and constant contact between don and student is, in my experience, especially effective. It is vital that Oxford should dispel any impression that it is "a fat cat university". Oxford is not seeking to be protected for privilege; it asks to be equipped for efficiency.

Those who say that its products still dominate the institutions of powers and influence in Britain might ask themselves whether this may not bear a relationship to the education which its graduates have received. We aim to give the best to those whom we have selected as the best — irrespective of where they come from. And we cannot do it by ourselves. The endowment of only a few colleges could withstand the withdrawal of subsidy for college fees. We already maximise the commercial exploitation of our premises — perhaps already at the expense of students who wish to remain in situ for the vacation.

Our task now is not to sell ourselves to the world, but to sell our university to the Government. Ministers cannot, surely, see Oxford's destiny as just another university, with its colleges ending their days as full-time conference centres.

The author is President of Trinity College, Oxford. Philip Howard's column will appear tomorrow.

Eating away

ATTITUDES among the Labour Government towards the taking of lunch grow ever more perverse. When they were first elected, it looked as though lunch would be abolished, with everyone forced to guzzle sandwiches and mineral water on the hoof à la Peter Mandelson. Milk Mouton without Portfolio. Now there are reports of



And what does 60 years' interest on grandfather's overdraft amount to?

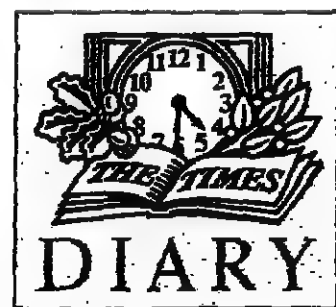
ever more Stalinist monitoring of the lunch hour.

One journalist recently set up lunch with a minister and rang up to confirm it with her private office on the day. Five minutes after receiving his confirmation, he received a call from the minister's departmental press office asking what questions he would be asking? Bang out of order, said the hack. It was unprecedented for a departmental press office to go nosing around over a lunch held on private lobby terms.

With the eye of No 10 looming over ministerial lives like the UFO over Washington in the posters for *Independence Day*, ministers and journalists are having to go to more elaborate means to keep their rendezvous secret.

One scam proving successful is to bypass government departments and telephone the ministers' researchers instead to arrange meetings. A restaurant can then be booked a safe distance from Westminster and the lunch held without it ever appearing in the official ministerial diary.

Lincoln's Inn went bananas on Tuesday night in tribute to Cap-



tain Malcolm Carver, who is retiring after 40 years as the Under-Treasurer at the Inns of Court. Talk centred on the Lord Chancellor's pot-and-kettle criticism of fat cat lawyers. George Carman, QC, one of the best paid and most successful lawyers, looked by turns indignant and woeful. As the evening wore on, he turned to his table and said: "What's so wrong with fat cats anyway?"

Flying low

WINTERS of pheasant-shooting are over for Lord Forte of Ripley, 88, founder of the Forte hotel group, who is asking £10 million for his 1,800-acre Surrey estate. Ryde Farm Estate in Ripley, 25 miles from London, includes 17 houses, an arable farming enter-

prise and a commercial dairy. The principal residence, decorated in the manner of a Forte Hotel, has a 60ft drawing-room, a 43ft pool and a quarry-tiled gun room.

Lord Forte bought the estate 35 years ago. There was only one problem with it. Even the politest members of his shooting parties could not help but grumble about birds flying only 4ft off the ground.

Storm, the London modelling agency behind Kate Moss, Carla Bruni and Iris Palmer, is opening a branch in Cape Town. "We'll be going for more conventional, healthy types," says a spokesman at the agency, founded in 1987 by Richard Branson and Sarah Doukas. "None of that English eccentricity." They might care to consult Earl Spencer, man about Cape Town, who was recently linked to Josie Borne, a South African model and walking advertisement for a life spent outdoors.

No change

THERE is a charming consistency to the conduct of Des Swayne, Conservative MP for New Forest West, who has been berating the Prime Minister at Question Time over the issue of Welsh devolution. A letter to the student newspaper of St Andrews University, published when



Key clients: Carole Caplin

Swayne was studying there in 1977, reads: "We would like to complain about the attitude of Des Swayne at practically every political meeting we have attended including SRC hecklings." Swayne's behaviour, the anonymous divinity student concludes, is quite simply "rude, nasty and brusque".

Working out

SINISTER voices are saying that Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, has signed up with the same personal trainer as Cherie Blair. Ms Jowell is said to be



Keeping fit: Tessa Jowell

breaking sweat for £50 an hour with Carole Caplin, the former glamour model and rock singer-turned-physical trainer, who works at the Albany Fitness Centre, Regent's Park.

Some suspect Ms Jowell of using her gym time to catch up on No 10 gossip. Her press office at the Department of Health issues a blanket denial on the matter. One very senior leetard, however, recommends Miss Caplin as a "woman to watch", saying: "Carole has a lot of MPs on her books."

P-H-S



A HARD BARGAIN

Scotland's Parliament should satisfy, but will not come cheap

Devolution was, famously, John Smith's "unfinished business". Tony Blair, notoriously, once compared a Scottish parliament to a parish council. The White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament*, published yesterday, brings devolution within Scots' grasp but, even if its proposals pass smoothly into law, that will not be the end of the business. The transfer of powers envisaged is significant, well beyond the parochial, but those powers are to be exercised within a framework of firm Westminster sovereignty.

The demand for a parliament in Scotland is greater than in Wales, and so are the powers to be devolved. Consequently, the potential difficulties and the need for careful remodelling of the Union are all the greater. If Labour is to create a settlement which endures then Scots must appreciate the nature of the new Union better than their ancestors did the Treaty of 1707, which provoked discontent long before it won admirers. When Scots cast their votes in the referendum they should recognise that the establishment of their parliament comes at a price, and one which may grow over time.

The principled argument for Scottish devolution is, like the Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar, mature, respectable and persuasive. Scotland is the only nation with its own legal system but no legislature. The growth in administrative devolution over the past 112 years has given the Scottish Secretary formidable powers over his fellow countrymen and £14 billion to spend. An hour a month at Westminster and a peripatetic Grand Committee, with no Tory representation, are flimsy figleaves for such an exercise of proconsular power. A properly established Scottish parliament could ensure a level of executive accountability, legislative scrutiny and democratic legitimacy which the status quo cannot.

Moving from the high ground of principle, however, involves negotiating boggy territory. The White Paper provides a sure guide through certain constitutional quagmires but it is, as yet, an incomplete map.

A CHANGE OF PRIORITIES

Ministers will not be judged by how much they spend

All new governments come into power determined to rationalise public spending. Few achieve their goal. But if the steamroller of government expenditure can be redirected just a little, it is worth the try. And the first year is the best opportunity to attempt it.

When one party has been in power for 18 years and another takes over, there must be scope for reallocation of money, both within and between departments, to reflect changed priorities. Ministers can also question whether spending in their departments achieves what it is supposed to achieve. That is the rationale behind the Government's comprehensive spending review, the terms of reference for which were published yesterday for each department.

Although the Conservatives held fundamental spending reviews, this is the first time that all departments have been asked to examine their operations simultaneously. That element of competition may spur ministers on, particularly since the reward will be approval from the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. They know that they will be judged on the savings that they find. They will also have no excuse not to throw themselves into the task. Because public spending levels for the coming year have been inherited from the Conservatives, ministers will not be distracted by having to make a bid in the annual spending round.

These factors should help to combat the countervailing pressure from officials in their departments, who judge the success of ministers by the amount of money that they manage to extract from the Treasury.

TEARS IN ROME

Italians demonstrate their opposition to the death penalty

In scenes as emotional as those that surrounded the Milan memorial service for Gianni Versace, hundreds of Italians mourned another death yesterday morning. They expressed their grief outside the American Embassy in Rome, and in the Campo dei Fiori, at the site where Giordano Bruno, philosopher and astronomer, was burnt at the stake for heresy 397 years previously. Similar vigils were held in other places, notably Palermo, a city that lost its most recent honorary citizen that night.

The object of this outpouring of emotion was not an eminent figure or national hero. Joseph O'Dell was a convicted criminal executed by lethal injection thousands of miles away in the state of Virginia. O'Dell had no connection with Italy. Despite that, his cause was adopted by newspapers and politicians across the country.

The Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, personally petitioned President Clinton for a commuted sentence. The Mayor of Palermo visited Richmond, Virginia, to ask Governor George Allen to spare the condemned man's life. Their efforts had been supported by the Pope and Mother Teresa. It was to no avail.

This crusade says much about Italy and the attitudes of Italians. In most European states capital punishment has been abolished at the behest of elites over the objections of popular opinion. Not so Italy, where a combination of Catholic teaching and revulsion over the deployment of state-sanctioned

The most prominent problem raised so far, the West Lothian question, is tackled as effectively as political realities allow. The potential difficulty for a Labour Government, dependent on Scottish MPs, legislating for England when it does not enjoy a majority south of the border is mitigated by the promise of a boundary review which will reduce Scottish representation.

The path to resolving other areas of possible friction is not so obvious. The White Paper states that the current level of Treasury spending in Scotland will survive, as will the post of Scottish Secretary. But how long will the Treasury tolerate the status quo when a Scottish parliament can levy its own taxes? Will the English meekly acquiesce when they realise Scots can enjoy lower taxes at their expense? What will the Scottish Secretary do when almost all his old powers are exercised by the executive in a Scottish parliament? What muscle will he have at Cabinet level with a tiny budget, shrunken secretariat and, very possibly, a parliament in Edinburgh to which he is ideologically opposed?

The inevitable diminution in the influence of the Scottish Secretary is more than one man's problem. To take just two issues, the EU and oil taxation, policy will be decided around a Cabinet table where Scotland's voice is weaker. A parliament will be more representative of Scottish opinion than any one minister but what use will that be when it cannot always make representations where it counts?

Entering caveats should not be equated with erecting obstacles. It is for Scotland to decide how best its political identity finds expression. The search for greater autonomy within the Union has been the Grail quest of Scottish politics for the past hundred years and this White Paper is a bold and honest attempt to bring it to a happy conclusion. Scots must, however, recognise that greater autonomy in Edinburgh is inevitably offset by less influence in England. It is as well to recognise that now, lest resentment sour a Union which has benefited both.

Gordon Brown and his Chief Secretary, Alistair Darling, are trying to persuade ministers not to see themselves as ambassadors for their departments. This will be hard, but not perhaps impossible in the early months of a new administration.

Dismantling the Leviathan and reassembling it more efficiently demands that searching questions be put. First, ministers will have to work out their objectives and how progress towards them can be measured and achieved. Then they will have to examine whether the current methods of delivering them are working — and if not, why not. Finally, there is the question of whether departments could achieve the same results more cheaply, and if so, how.

One of the few advantages of inheriting a tight spending regime is that ministers have already been forced to be imaginative and to challenge their assumptions. Thus, for instance, David Blunkett has accepted the need for students to contribute towards their tuition fees, a notion that would have been anathema to a Labour politician not so long ago.

This exercise will be a big test to a Cabinet of uneven quality. It will mark out those who have managed the transition from Opposition to Government, and those who have not. But if a reordering of expenditure can ever be achieved, it is worth trying now, before what the Treasury calls "departmentalitis" sets in. The old ways will doubtless return, but Mr Blair is right to take advantage of the vigour of his new administration before they do.

death during the fascist dictatorship (especially in Abyssinia and Albania), saw the instrument abolished shortly after Mussolini's own execution. That decision is still supported by an overwhelming majority.

O'Dell was not the first American on death row to be adopted by Italians. This affair acquired a special standing because of newspaper reports that highlighted doubts over the DNA evidence used against him. But most Italians would have opposed the sentence even if O'Dell's guilt had been proved beyond all possible contention. The entire US judicial system was portrayed as harsh and uncompromising. The Governor, it was alleged, had refused clemency to advance his own electoral ambitions. Those accounts might have exaggerated the degree of uncertainty in these circumstances.

The outcry also sheds an unusual light on Italian-American relations. The American constitutional apparatus is widely admired by Italians who hold a dim view of their own politicians and government. The energy and enterprise of US culture is also universally appreciated. That the same society, normally so advanced, can deploy the death penalty — and with such apparent enthusiasm — is regarded with amazement as well as abhorrence. Italians are quietly proud of their own sense of compassion and forgiveness in these matters. In this respect, Rome perceives itself as somewhat superior to Richmond. The execution of O'Dell will reinforce that belief.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dearing's 'tough truths' on tuition fees and student debt

From Dr Kenneth Jason

Sir, With such a vast increase in the number of school leavers going on to university, it is little wonder that the Government has been forced to make them pay for their tuition (reports and leading article, July 24). Twenty or thirty years ago the country could comfortably afford to invest in the brightest gaining a higher education to ensure its future as one of the world's top industrial and technological nations.

If this expansion in higher education were truly beneficial, one would expect to see the highest increases in subjects such as physics. This has clearly not been the case and in fact a few established universities have been forced to close their physics departments. The majority of the expansion has been in pseudo-academic subjects such as media studies. In institutions that really have no right to be called universities.

If students are required to pay for tuition, it will force them to look closely at whether they really need to go to university and whether the course they do has any real value. It is a pity that to restore balance to higher education diligence and hard work are to be replaced by fees.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH JASON,
3 Linksway, Holders Hill Road, NW4,
kenneth@ort.org
July 24.

From the General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers

Sir, I welcome the commitment by the Secretary of State, David Blunkett ("The tough truths of Dearing", July 24), that the Government's proposals will mean more money for universities, and that the savings will be used in higher education. What is raised in higher education must be spent in higher education, or the political row with new Labour supporters will echo for years.

I would also like to challenge your point (leading article, July 21) that it is well established that too much is spent in Britain on its universities at the expense of its schools.

Evidence on BSE

From Professor Emeritus S. John Pirt

Sir, The objection of the vice-president of the Royal Society, Professor P. J. Lachmann (letter, July 14), to the brilliant article by Lord Rees-Mogg (July 7) on research into the cause of BSE is ironical in view of the Royal Society's intention to promote discussion of science in the news media.

Nothing in science could be more controversial than what causes BSE. The fury raised by the challenge to the prior theory by the auto-immune theory of the disease reminds me of Machiavelli's dictum: "There is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more dubious of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things. For the reformer has enemies in all those who profit by the old order and only lukewarm defenders in all those who would profit by the new."

Yours faithfully,
S. JOHN PIRT,
50 Charnfield Avenue, Putney, SW15,
July 16.

Defeated MPs

From Mr Geoffrey Warner

Sir, Thirty-seven former Conservative MPs are still looking for a job following their defeat in the general election (report, July 19).

At the time of the 1992 election a good friend of mine was made redundant by his company. He was the same age (53) as that of the average defeated Tory this time round. After five years and more than a thousand job applications he is still unemployed.

In order to obtain the miserable benefit to which 37 years as a taxpayer entitles him, my friend has been subjected to all manner of bureaucratic indignity and humiliation at the behest of a Government which consistently sought to portray the unemployed as workshy scroungers yet whose policies were largely responsible for their plight.

Conservative politicians are too rarely forced to share the privations they inflict upon their fellow-citizens. I have no sympathy for the 37.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WARNER,
19 Wensum Drive,
Didcot, Oxfordshire,
July 21.

Virtually the same?

From Mrs J. Steward

Sir, Although Mr D. O. E. Batten (letter, July 17) may wonder if there is a difference between virtual reality and complete self-delusion, I'm virtually convinced that in reality he needn't worry about it.

Yours faithfully,
JILL STEWARD,
23 Orchard Drive,
Walford, Hertfordshire,
July 17.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

According to the most recent statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the only education sector in the UK where spending per pupil or student was above the OECD average was in pre-primary schools. In all the other sectors — primary, secondary and tertiary — our spending was below our competitors' averages. For example, direct spending per UK tertiary student in 1993 was \$8,241 (1994/95) — 15 per cent below the OECD average.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIESMAN,
General Secretary,
Association of University Teachers,
United House,
9 Pembroke Road, W11,
July 23.

From Mrs June Brough

Sir, The main justification for charging tuition fees to students is that graduates earn higher than average salaries. The Government has said that students will be expected to take out loans to cover the cost. If students are expected to pay for the cost of their tuition from their own future earnings, why are those students from families with incomes below the £16,000 threshold not required to pay? Are their expectations lower?

Yours faithfully,
JUNE BROUGH,
43 Marshwood Croft,
Halesowen, West Midlands,
j.m.brough@bham.ac.uk
July 24.

From Mrs Gill Muncey

Sir, Surely one outcome of the withdrawal of maintenance grants for higher education students must be a review of the length of the university teaching year. At the University of Sussex the 96/97 terms only lasted for 30 weeks in total — leaving a ridiculously long 22 weeks' vacation over the year.

The University of Buckingham already fits degree courses into two years and this practice ought to be extended. The sooner students can get into employment and start earning

Voluntary euthanasia

From Mr Russel Ogden

Sir, In his condemnation of Dr Michael Irwin for practising euthanasia, Dr Stuart Horner of the BMA's medical ethics committee shows that he is out of touch with the views of the majority of society and many who suffer from terminal illness (report, July 21). As an ethnographer I have interviewed scores of terminally ill people who approve of voluntary euthanasia as well as the "back street" euthanasia which help them to die.

I am astonished by Dr Horner's assertion that he believes "the General Medical Council and the police would be failing in their duty if they did not look into these allegations". Should Dr Irwin be jailed for life, as the current odious law obliges? What is just or ethical in a criminal law that makes no distinction between the consensual killing of a dying person and the murder of someone who wishes to live?

Dr Horner, it seems to me, takes his moral guidance from the blunt rule of law. I regard Dr Irwin, on the other hand, as informed by compassion, understanding and a profound respect for the right to self-determination.

Yours sincerely,
R. OGDEN,
University of Exeter,
Department of Sociology,
Arms Building,
Rennes Drive, Exeter, Devon.

From Dr Elizabeth S. B. Wilson

Sir, One of the regular arguments against voluntary euthanasia ad-

English in India

From Mr Anthony Read

Sir, Nayantra Sahgal (interview, July 23) says it was an absurdity that the British should have encouraged Western education in India, since this "sowed the seeds of our dissatisfaction". In fact, the sowing of such seeds was deliberate, started as early as 1835 by Lord Macaulay, who stated in his *Minute on Indian Education* that "the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European [i.e. English] literature and science among the natives of India". He concluded that "Self-knowledge will lead to self-rule, and that would be the proudest day in British history."

Although it took 112 years for Mac-

and supporting themselves, the better all round. As well as minimising their living-expense debt they can pay it off while they are young and less likely to be married with family responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,
GILL MUNCEY,
7 Perrots Lane,
Steyning, West Sussex,
gmuncey@fastnet.co.uk

From the Principal of Concord College

Sir, I much enjoyed today's article by Libby Purves, "University challenges", on the implications of the Dearing report.

Now that UK students are to be required to pay tuition fees, can they and their parents expect regular progress reports? The first that parents hear about an unsatisfactory performance is when the student has lost his place. Overseas students' parents, who pay much higher fees, have long resented being kept in the dark.

University tutors will say that the students are adults and that the contractual relationship is between the student and the university. But universities do report to company sponsors and parents will soon be in the same financial relationship.

Parental involvement at an early stage could help to reduce examination failure and the waste that this entails.

Yours sincerely,
A. L. MORRIS,
Principal, Concord College,
Acton Burnell Hall,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
July 23.

From Mr Tom Dete

Sir, Tony Blair, as part of his election campaign, put great emphasis on education, education, education. However, it is only now that the small print has emerged: subject to status.

Yours sincerely,
TOM DETE,
16 Littleton Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex,
July 24.

vanced by the British Medical Association is that its legalisation would destroy the "doctor/patient relationship" of trust, as doctors are known to be bound to save life and not take it away. What balderdash this is.

A physician's paramount duty is to care for his, or her, patient with skill, compassion and integrity. In my view this includes complying with their wishes at the end of life, even if this means their death occurs days, weeks or months before so-called "nature" eventually supervenes.

To describe the death of someone in, intensive care, for example, as "natural" is to stretch the meaning of words beyond their limit, as is Dr Horner's use of the term "execution" in relation to physician-assisted suicide.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH S. B. WILSON,
11 Westbourne Gardens, Glasgow 12,
July 22.

From Dr Richard Gordon

Sir, How much easier was life, and death, before people started striking attitudes and forming associations about ethical problems.

Some 50 years ago, as a newly qualified houseman with a tortured conscience, I ventured to kill off my first patient. I instantly and solemnly told the ward sister: "I've just turned off the drip on No 16." "Oh, yes, doctor," she said, "that patient's already been dead for half an hour."

I am, etc,
RICHARD GORDON,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2,
July 21.

aulay's seeds to reach fruition, their growth was largely responsible for making the British Raj unique in colonial and imperial history, helping to shape such men as Mrs Sahgal's uncle, Jawaharlal Nehru. It also fostered an otherwise inexplicable mutual affection, which made August 14, 1947, a proud day not only for India and Pakistan, but also for Britain.

Somewhat, that affection even managed to survive the shameful tragedy that followed a botched and scrambled partition, so that we can all share in celebrating its fiftieth anniversary next month.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY READ,
7 Cedar Chase,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire,
July 24.

EU and Estonia

From Ms Monica S. Staaf

Sir, Dr Graham Smith (letter, July 22; see also letters, July 24) claimed that Estonia is mistreating its Russian residents by requiring them to pass an Estonian language test as a prerequisite of citizenship.

It is not surprising that few ethnic Russians speak Estonian. The Soviet government originally encouraged them to move to Estonia as a means of eradicating the cultural and linguistic identity of the Estonian people. To fulfil this goal the Soviets also forced native speakers of Estonian, like my family, to learn Russian in school.

Yours sincerely,
MONICA S. STAAF,
13 Thorncroft, Larkfield,
Englefield Green, Surrey.

Use of Internet by extremist groups

From Dr Phillip Hallam-Baker

Sir, Your report (July 18) that anti-Semitic and far-right groups, hit by declining numbers, have resorted to seeking international support on the Internet, thereby exposing themselves to scrutiny by law enforcement agencies and other opponents.

The implication that hate groups have had their Internet sites wiped out by "hackers" is a worrying one. Despite having been active in the World Wide Web security research community for five years, I am not aware of any such case.

The tone of your report suggests that such vigilante censorship is an appropriate method of dealing with these groups, but you do not mention that such activities are criminal when carried out from the UK and most other countries.

Those inconvenienced are in any case often not the intended victim. Presumably any unpopular or controversial view could be silenced in a similar manner. Enlightened liberal causes are at least as likely to be attacked.

Hate groups marginalise themselves when they use arguments transparently based on lies. It is difficult to sustain a claim that the Holocaust did not occur, when rebutted by the Nazis' own words at the Nuremberg trials linked to online texts of the actual transcripts.

Yours,
PHILLIP HALLAM-BAKER,
MIT Laboratory for
Artificial Intelligence,
545 Technology Square,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139,
hallam@ai.mit.edu
July 18.

Word perfect

From Mr G. D. Ashley

Sir, Today, at different times whilst listening to the radio, I have heard the descriptions "computer literate" and "computer illiterate" on at least six occasions. It would seem to a person of lowly scientific training that the words "computerate" and "incomputerate" would fulfil these functions more succinctly.

Yours faithfully
(alas incomputerately),
G. D. ASHLEY,
27a Westgate,
Tickhill, Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
July 16.

Black redstarts

From Mr David J. Montier

Sir, No doubt the birds reported by Scrivener ("Inns and Ours", Law, July 22) as nesting at the Royal Courts of Justice were black redstarts, rather than redstarts, their rural relatives.

In the London area, black redstarts will set up territories in a variety of urban or industrial habitats, and records of nesting birds or singing males this summer have come from the millennium exhibition site at Greenwich, Whitehall, Borough High Street and from the roof of the Hippodrome Theatre in Leicester Square.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. MONTIER
(Editor, *London Natural History Society Ornithological Bulletin*),
Eyebrook, Oldfield Road,
Bickley, Bromley, Kent,
July 22.

Sporting psalm

From Mr Anthony Bosanquet

Sir, Our church congregation this morning much enjoyed the singing of Tate and Brady's version of Psalm 42: "As pants the hart for cooling streams, when heated in the chase."

I found myself wondering whether, like the now abandoned (and wholly unmentioned) verse of *All things bright and beautiful* about the rich man in his castle and the poor man at the gate, this marvellous hymn (to say nothing of the psalm) is shortly destined to join the ranks of the politically incorrect.

I shared this thought with an old friend after the service. "My favourite hymn", he said. Is nothing sacred?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BOSANQUET,
Dingestow Court, Monmouth,
July 20.

Close of play

From Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley

Sir, In his statement concerning his resignation (report, July 22), the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Reverend Brandon Jackson, seems obsessed with cricket imagery, speaking of his decision "to declare the innings closed" and to seek "other grounds with more favourable wickets".

Clearly he has no use for Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1933):
Play up! play up! and play the game!
He seems more attuned to Andrew Lang (1844-1912):
I am the batsman and the ball,
I am the bowler and the ball.
The umpire, the pavilion cat,
The roller, pitch, and stumps, and all

Yours sincerely,
H. H. HUXLEY,
12 Dervent Close, Cambridge,
July 22.

OBITUARIES

BRIAN GLOVER

Brian Glover, actor, died from a brain tumour yesterday aged 63. He was born on April 2, 1934.



Between Kes, the film which launched his screen career, and his even better-known starring role as the voice of the Gaffer behind the Telly television advertisements, Brian Glover had been Shakespearean actor, television scriptwriter and schoolmaster. But the experience which, he always said, gave him the confidence to succeed was the twenty years he spent in the ring, as a professional wrestler.

For ten of those years Glover led an extraordinary double life. Between 9am and 4pm each day he was the English and French master in a Yorkshire grammar school. But unknown to his staffroom colleagues, as soon as the school day was over, he was transformed into Leon Arras, jettisoning professional wrestler, and a star of the rings of Paris, Zurich and Milan. Every afternoon he would drive to Leeds, take a train to London and from there fly to whatever venue beckoned him with wrestling action. A few fast falls, the plaudits of the crowd, the pocketing of a cheque, and Leon Arras would be back in Barnsley by the following morning to resume the only role in which his colleagues knew him.

ROY GREGORY

Roy Gregory, CBE, QC, civil servant and lawyer, died on July 4 aged 81. He was born on January 16, 1916.

Roland Charles Leslie Gregory was born in Balham, south London, and won a scholarship to the Strand School. At the age of 17 he took the Civil Service clerical exam, coming third out of more than 3,000 candidates.

Following year he transferred to the Lambeth County Court. From October 1941 to April 1942 he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps, returning to Lambeth County Court following his discharge on medical grounds. In 1947, he was appointed secretary to the Austin Jones Committee on County Court Procedure. So successfully did he do his work that immediately after this committee had reported he was appointed secretary to the Evershed Committee on Supreme Court Practice and

Procedures, which sat from 1949 to 1953. In 1950 he was called to the Bar. In 1949, Roy Gregory was invited to join the editorial team working on Butterworth's County Court Practice, an annual publication for practitioners in the county courts, familiarly known as the Green Book. He was a meticulous and resourceful editor, and he continued working on the publication to the time of his death. Despite the continuous expansion of the jurisdiction of the county

MARGOT WALMSLEY

Margot Walmsley, former managing editor of Encounter, died yesterday aged 83. She was born on January 21, 1914.

UNTIL the very end of her life, Margot Walmsley was one of London's great party-givers. The salon in her Kensington flat began in the 1950s as a lively extension of her job as managing editor of the now defunct Encounter magazine; but it took on a life of its own, and during the past 40 years innumerable literary and political friendships have been formed and nourished there.

She was born in London of Scottish parents. As a girl she lived in Maida Vale — "the respectable end", she would say — and received a convent education. She took a few tentative steps in Fleet Street journalism just before the war, but the decisive move in her life came when she accepted an invitation from Irving Kristol to join Encounter in 1953, its first year. There, under a series of brilliant but unruly editors, and amid repeated storms of controversy, she maintained order and calm.

From the start her parties were glittering affairs, at which Kristol, an American who was co-editor of Encounter along with Stephen Spender, had the chance to meet English writers and intellectuals, and at which visiting Americans such as Lionel Trilling and Daniel Bell could be entertained. Many young writers who have since become eminent were also part of her cast-list.

It was Margot's personality and style as a hostess that gave the parties their character. First, there was the informality. Margot's flat was only a small one on the top floor of a Kensington terrace. When guests arrived and the window street doorbell, a window wrapped in a scrap of paper came hurtling down. In the

PROFESSOR CHONE SHMERUK

Chone Shmeruk, Emeritus Professor of Yiddish at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died in Warsaw on July 5 aged 76. He was born there on January 5, 1921.

versions. Shmeruk reconstructed the text and provided a masterly analysis of its structure. Then he edited the original Hebrew writings of the Jewish humorist Sholem Aleichem, and followed this with an edition of the correspondence between the "father" of both modern Yiddish and modern Hebrew literature, Shalom Yakov Abramovich (who wrote under the pseudonym "Mendele the Book-

18th century. He later produced a similar work on Yiddish books printed in Italy, discovering in the process two unknown Yiddish books in the British Library, which had been printed in Venice in 1551. A detailed bibliography of Yiddish publications in the Soviet Union appeared in 1961. It is an indispensable reference work. He also published many articles on individual Soviet Yiddish writers. Especially important are those on the Yiddish poets and novelists shot by Stalin in August 1952. As a tribute to them, he edited the valuable anthology *A Shipgill off a Stone* (1964).



The bilingual anthology of modern Yiddish verse, which he edited with Irving Howe and Ruth Wisse, appeared in 1987. It confirmed Shmeruk's reputation as the leading authority on Yiddish culture from its medieval beginnings on the Rhine down to modern times. During his last few years he had been working on a monograph on Isaac Bashevis Singer.

In 1993, friends and former students of his published a *Festschrift* in his honour in three languages: Hebrew, English and Yiddish. Shmeruk was a member of the Israel Academy of Science and was awarded the State of Israel Prize.

He had a quiet sense of humour, was always elegantly dressed and was a regular visitor to London and Oxford; he had many friends in Britain. His first wife, Myra, died in 1990. He is survived by his second wife, Krystina, by two daughters from his first marriage and by the son from his second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

Table with flight information including destinations, airlines, and times.

FLIGHTWISE

Table with flight information including destinations, airlines, and times.

JETLINE

Table with flight information including destinations, airlines, and times.

FARESAVERS

Table with flight information including destinations, airlines, and times.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices including court orders and public notices.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices including court orders and public notices.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices including court orders and public notices.

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Legal notices including court orders and public notices.

MOON MEN RETURN TO EARTH UPSIDE DOWN BUT SAFE

From the News Team, Houston, July 24. The Apollo 11 astronauts are home, back safe and well after their historic journey that took Mr. Neil Armstrong and Colonel Edwin Aldrin to the surface of the Moon in mankind's most spectacular achievement.

ON THIS DAY

July 25, 1969. On July 21 Apollo 11 landed on the Moon with Neil Armstrong remarking: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind". The landing was the successful culmination of President Kennedy's declaration, "I believe this nation should commit itself... to a landing on the Moon".

ON THIS DAY

July 25, 1969. The astronauts had an eight-minute wait for the inflation balloon to inflate and right the pear-shaped capsule. Fortunately, communication with the recovery helicopters and the carrier was maintained during the period of perverseness by the spacecraft which had performed flawlessly throughout the flight.

ON THIS DAY

July 25, 1969. Sixty-three minutes after splash-down all three men were on board the recovery helicopter and off the raft, which together with its equipment was to be sunk 18,000 feet to the bottom of the ocean.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 25 1997

The different faces — and jobs — of Sir Colin Marshall



Man for the jobs: Sir Colin with Philip Cushing, chief executive of Incheape; meeting Director-General Adair Turner and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, at the CBI; with Bob Ayling, chief executive at BA

By JON ASHWORTH
ANOTHER day, another board meeting for Sir Colin Marshall, who yesterday added to his impressive collection of directorships.

Sir Colin, President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), and a man with a penchant for red ties, has been appointed chairman-designate of Siebe, the UK engineering group. He succeeds Barrie Stephens, who steps down as chairman next year after presiding over years of spectacular growth. Siebe's shares, 27p in 1993, closed at £10.15 yesterday.

Sir Colin's succession has been planned with care, so as not to brighten his secretary. He joins the board in January, but fully succeeds Mr Stephens in May, coinciding with the end of his two-year term as CBI president. This aside, he is hardly lacking in appointments (or directors' fees), earning £267,000 last year as non-executive

chairman of British Airways, and adorning multifarious boards. Sir Colin, who will be 64 in November, is non-executive chairman of Incheape, deputy chairman of British Telecommunications, and a non-executive director of HSBC Holdings. He is also a director of the New York Stock

Exchange and of Qantas, the Australian airline. Speaking from his office in London's Berkeley Square yesterday, Sir Colin said he thrived in his various roles: "I find that under present circumstances I'm able to cope, I think, reasonably well. I'm a person who has been accustomed to

putting in quite long hours, and I'm perfectly happy and perfectly healthy to keep on doing it. And I enjoy doing it." The CBI role, for which Sir Colin is not paid, takes up "quite a fair bit" of his time. Many of his evenings are taken up with speaking engagements.

Arnault digs in on drinks merger

By DOMINIC WALSH

BERNARD ARNAULT, the LVMH chief who controls more than 10 per cent of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, said yesterday he was determined to thwart the planned £24 billion merger rather than compromise his stand.

M. Arnault said the principle of his proposal, which envisages a separately quoted company combining LVMH's Moët Hennessey with the drinks arms of Guinness and GrandMet, was "not negotiable". However, it appeared last night that the two British companies may be able to push through the merger even if M. Arnault tries to block it.

The only element he was open to discussion on was the level of LVMH's stake in the new drinks company, put at a hefty 35 per cent in his scheme.

This week, there have been suggestions that Guinness and GrandMet, to be renamed 'GMG Brands' after the merger, would be happy to pursue a three-way drinks tie-up provided the new business remained a subsidiary of GMG. But M. Arnault, in London yesterday to gain support from institutional shareholders, said: "It does not make sense to give up control of Moët Hennessey and get a minority stake in an unquoted company." He accepted that a collapse of the merger would cause shares in both British companies to fall. "I'm never happy to see the price of shares go down, but we are prepared to do what we have to do." The merger proposal put forward by Guinness and GrandMet, taking in Pillsbury food, Guinness Brewing and Burger King, made no sense, he reiterated.

His own proposal, submitted to GMG last week, argues that food, restaurants and brewing should be spun off as individually quoted com-

panies. Combining the three drinks companies would result in additional annual cost savings of £65 million over and above the £175 million identified by GMG.

M. Arnault said he would only agree to the GMG merger if there was a binding agreement that they would be spun off within a short period of time, possibly a year. However, he said he had been advised that such a promise would be "impossible" for Guinness and GrandMet to give, as it would require shareholder approval.

In the next few days, Guinness and GrandMet will issue a formal response to M. Arnault. However, most analysts expect its line to vary little from the initial response which dismissed the Frenchman's scheme as "a complicated and costly break-up" that would give him "back-door control without paying a premium".

Such a response looks likely to have grave consequences. "We are open to discussion. But if the management of Guinness and GrandMet does not agree we will have to adjust our position," said M. Arnault. The clear implication was that he would instruct LVMH's broker, to raise LVMH's stake in GrandMet to closer to the 25 per cent needed to block the merger. On Tuesday, he raised it to 11.05 per cent and has now cut his Guinness stake to 12.3 per cent. Last night, however, one analyst pointed out that by altering the terms of the merger, it could be pushed through with just 51 per cent of GrandMet shareholder support.

But LVMH said: "However you look at it, someone with a 25 per cent stake is calling the shots."

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Elizabeth Forsyth, who is to seek damages from Polly Peck, at the High Court yesterday

Forsyth to seek damages from PPI administrator

By JON ASHWORTH

ELIZABETH FORSYTH, former aide to Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, was planning her business comeback yesterday after the High Court threw out a long-running civil action against her.

Mrs Forsyth, 60, was cleared to seek damages from the administrators of Polly Peck International (PPI), the defunct fruits-to-electronics group, which was criticised for failing to lift a freezing order over her bank accounts.

Deloitte & Touche, the joint PPI administrators, said on Wednesday that it was dropping the action against Mrs

Forsyth, who served ten months in prison after being convicted of handling £400,000 in stolen PPI funds. Her conviction was quashed in March but the administrators initially decided to continue the civil action.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe, the presiding judge, said yesterday that after Mrs Forsyth's conviction was quashed the administrators should have taken a "rapid decision" on whether to release the injunction and discontinue the proceedings against her.

Mark Blacker-Ord, representing Mrs Forsyth, told the

court that it was an "abuse of process" to obtain the injunction and not proceed with it, and there was "no justification" for the six-month delay.

The judge ordered the administrators to pay Mrs Forsyth's legal costs on a punitive indemnity basis and ordered an inquiry into any damages she might have suffered because of the delay in lifting the injunction.

Mrs Forsyth said after the hearing: "At last I shall be able to get on with my life." She added that she would now seek work in the financial services sector or with a trust fund.

SIB warns City firms over pay

By JASON NISSE

THE Securities and Investments Board, which will take charge of all financial regulation next year, has warned City firms that they must review their pay structures to avoid a repeat of scandals like the pension mis-selling or Barings. Sir Andrew Large, who retires as SIB chairman next week, believes that in areas like derivatives and selling life assurance, massive bonus payments have contributed to problems costing City firms hundreds of millions of pounds.

Paying life salesmen bonuses to sell pensions has led to firms selling inappropriate policies to thousands of people.

In a consultation paper issued yesterday on the responsibilities of senior management, the SIB proposes that City firms give details of the responsibility of each executive. These structures will be reviewed regularly

by the SIB and it will recommend changes if it does not think internal controls are strong enough. The SIB has also drawn up a list of 11 issues senior managers should consider when running firms. These include recruitment, pay and understanding the business areas in which the firm operates. The SIB is not saying what is good and bad practice, but will clamp down on firms that pay bonuses for short-term deals that might go wrong in the future.

"We are not being prescriptive about remuneration arrangements," Sir Andrew said. "But they can affect behaviour, so it is important for firms and investors that any bonus systems which are set up do not inadvertently corrupt a firm's internal controls."

Commentary, page 25

Economists wary of early rate rise

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE Bank of England should resist making another immediate rate rise, a group of economists said yesterday.

The shadow monetary policy committee, set up to monitor the Bank's new monetary policy committee, said that after three consecutive rises it is time to pause and reassess the direction of monetary policy.

Committee members — who include Professor Tim Congdon, Professor

Patrick Minford and Sir Alan Walters — did not rule out the need for interest rate rises later in the year, but said that the exchange rate was "an important consideration" at the moment and that the impact of windfall payouts was likely to be only temporary.

The committee's stance was backed by the Confederation of British Industry, which described the prospect of further rate rises as "unwelcome", as evidence begins to emerge that the strong pound is hurting exporters. ICI yesterday said that sterling's strength

would knock about £150 million off profits this year, with two thirds of the loss arising from a fall in exports.

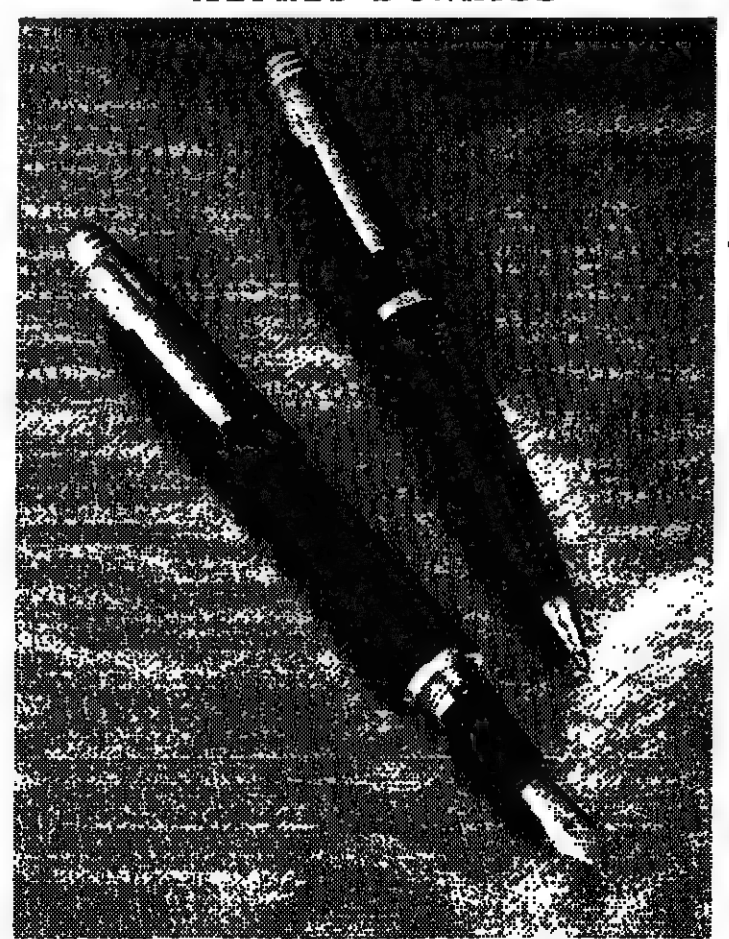
The CBI's latest industrial trends survey showed export confidence at its lowest for 17 years, and export orders falling at their fastest rate since October 1991. Export orders are expected to continue to fall over the next four months, though at a slower rate. CBI analysts believe that companies are adjusting to the high pound by reducing profit margins in order to maintain market share. The pound

closed at DM3.0625 and \$1.6732 yesterday.

The widening in the trade deficit predicted by the CBI survey has yet to emerge in official data. The global deficit for May narrowed to £508 million, compared with £989 million in April, boosted by a £76 million surplus with EU countries. However, the deficit for non-EU countries in June grew to £713 million, mainly because of a fall in exports.

Economists said it is only a matter of time before the trade balance declines.

ALFRED DUNHILL



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Society rejects rebel calls for new vote

By ADAM JONES

THE Nationwide Building Society yesterday ruled out a referendum on becoming a bank amid anger from some members who argue that the issue has not been satisfactorily considered.

The society also said that £1.3 billion was deposited in accounts last month as branches were besieged by windfall speculators.

On Wednesday, candidates seeking election to the board on a conversion platform were resoundingly defeated by an average of about 950,000 votes to 350,000. Nationwide said the vote was an endorsement of mutual status since the would-be directors had made conversion their only platform.

At the annual meeting in London yesterday, Charles Nunn, chairman, said the debate was over. However, some of the 522 members at the meetings called for a straight vote on conversion. One said: "We had a vote that was for directors, not conversion."

Dissenters said that many had voted against the five pro-conversion candidates because they thought that they would not be suitable board members and not necessarily because of a belief in mutualism.

Michael Hardern, the freelance butler leading a pro-conversion lobby group, has been criticised for erratic behaviour. Yesterday, he left the meeting early saying that he was bored. He said it was likely that he would try again next year, claiming Nationwide had waged a "foul" campaign against him.

After Mr Hardern publicly renounced his pro-conversion stance, the board wrote to members at a cost of £1 million to try to change the minds of previously sympathetic voters. Mr Hardern later returned to his original views.

Other members said that the vote was a powerful reminder of Nationwide's roots in the co-operative movement.

The Nationwide is involved in talks with the Government that could result in secondary legislation to make building societies less vulnerable to the carpet-bagging mayhem that forced it to close its doors temporarily to new depositors.



Charles Miller Smith is surprised at the quality and size of new customer contacts at ICI following the £4.7bn Unilever acquisitions

Acquisitions spur ICI in face of first-half profits collapse

By PAUL DURMAN

ICI said the speciality chemicals businesses recently acquired from Unilever for £4.7 billion are already attracting new customers because of the change in ownership.

The four Unilever businesses, including the US-based National Starch, had previously found it difficult to win contracts from Unilever's rivals such as Procter & Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive. While Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive, declined to comment on these

two companies, he said the group was "surprised by the quality and size" of the new customer contacts. He said: "Some customers are saying they will buy because [the Unilever businesses] are now part of ICI."

The Unilever deal is one of three big moves that have transformed ICI's business. The intention is to reduce the company's exposure to the industrial chemicals cycle, and to enable it to deliver steady profits growth.

Weak chemical prices in ICI's polyester and nitro-

divisions — which are being sold to DuPont in a £1.8 billion deal announced last week — contributed to a collapse in first-half profits from £367 million to £160 million before tax and exceptional items. The group's second-quarter profit was down from £165 million to £95 million. The polyester and nitrodivisions swung from a £42 million profit to a £49 million loss on substantially reduced sales of £669 million (£853 million).

ICI was also badly hit by the strength of the pound, which cost it £90 million. Alan Spall,

chief financial officer, said he expects the currency impact will have risen to £150 million by the end of the year.

The company has maintained its interim dividend at 12.5p a share, which will be paid as a foreign income dividend. Mr Spall expressed ICI's concern about the Government's proposed abolition of "funds" and the ending of tax credits on dividend income. He said: "Some levers have been pulled the richest effect of which, two or three years down the track, have not been thought through because

there has not been a proper debate." He said ICI was very worried about the impact on pension schemes.

Paints, which includes Dulux, was a rare bright spot, improving profits from £63 million to £68 million. The acrylics and polyurethane businesses saw profits tumble from £82 million to £42 million. The industrial chemicals division suffered an £80 million fall in profits to £55 million, again blamed on export and pricing difficulties.

Commentary, page 25

Consumer warning on gas competition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Gas Consumers Council yesterday gave a warning that the industry might not be ready for the extension of domestic gas competition in Scotland and the North East by the November deadline.

It said that after talks with the regulator it was not convinced that the system was sufficiently robust to deal with the large numbers of people expected to switch suppliers.

Sue Slipman, director of the council, said: "By pushing forward the date of competition, the regulator risks taking the whole concept of gas

competition into disrepute. GCC wants the right balance between early competition, which benefits all consumers and ensures that procedures are of high quality and lead to minimal disruption when consumers transfer."

Two million households in southern England can buy gas from competing suppliers already.

Eileen Marshall, of Ofgas, rejected the criticism. She said: "We are absolutely confident we can deliver competition and deal with the issues that the GCC has raised."

Kingfisher set to swoop on French takeover target



Mulcahy: statement

KINGFISHER, the retail conglomerate, is considering buying the 74 per cent it does not already own of BUT, the French furniture and electrical retailer, for about £225 million (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The UK group, which owns Woolworths, Comet, B&Q and the French electricals retailer leader Darty, was forced to make a statement by the French stock exchange after a sharp rise in BUT's shares. They were suspended on Wednesday at £335 (about £32).

Kingfisher, where Sir Geof-

frey Mulcahy is chief executive, said yesterday that it would pay a price not exceeding 300 francs per share. It also said that it intended to make no further statements about a deal until mid-September.

Kingfisher said it is in talks with the Venturist family, which owns just over 30 per cent of the company. It is also investigating the possibility of then making a *garantie de concours* offer, which remaining shareholders would have to accept.

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Barclays employees vote to take action

BARCLAYS BANK faces the threat of industrial action after two strike ballots over pay. Members of Unifi, which balloted more than 30,000 Barclays workers, voted by 67 per cent in favour of action short of a strike. However, members of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) voted by 53 per cent in favour of a walkout. The unions claim that the performance-linked pay system would mean a pay freeze for 25,000 employees.

Bifu's Barclays committee is pressing for a two-day strike. The union's executive will decide on action shortly. Jim Lowe, assistant secretary, said: "We want a short sharp campaign that causes the least disruption to customers but gets the message over to Barclays top management." Paul Snowball, general secretary of Unifi, predicted that industrial action was "almost inevitable". A spokesman for Barclays said the bank was pleased that the majority of union members had voted against strike action.

Recovery at Philips

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, enjoyed a sharp recovery in profits in the second quarter. Pre-tax profits rose from £85 million to £200 million in the three months to June 30. Jan Hoimmen, finance director, said: "We are operating our facilities at a very high rate of capacity. Demand is excellent for the products that we are associated with, especially the consumer products and also the multimedia chips are doing extremely well."

Pilkington's tough time

PILKINGTON, the glass manufacturer, said that difficult European trading conditions in the second half of last year have continued into the first quarter of this year. At the annual meeting, shareholders were told that glass prices had risen from their low point at the end of March but remained "relatively subdued". The company said a big restructuring of its European automotive glazing business is under way. It involves a 20 per cent reduction in its European workforce.

Zeneca's drug forecast

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals group, said it does not expect fresh difficulties securing further regulatory approvals for its new asthma drug, in spite of health problems that some US users have suffered. Zeneca has told US doctors that a "handful" of the 250,000 to 300,000 Americans on Accolate tablets have had symptoms including breathing difficulties and heart problems. Zeneca suggests they may arise because severe asthma sufferers cut their intake of other medications.

Ted Baker's smart start

SHARES in Ted Baker, the fashion company, went to a 4½ p premium in first-day trading yesterday. Charterhouse Tilney placed 19.26 million shares with 40 institutions at 135p each. They ended the day at 139½p. Ray Kavin, founder and chief executive of the company, is keeping 45 per cent. He took a £3 million one-off payment before the float. The total of shares in circulation is 41.26 million. At the placing price, the market capitalisation was £557 million.

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Brokers' past on screen

REGULATORS in New York are to put the disciplinary record of all US stockbrokers on the Internet. The National Association of Securities Dealers Regulation said investors can learn about their brokers' backgrounds on its website, at www.nasdr.com. The information, already classed as "public", is at present available only through a process involving written petitions. The association keeps tabs on more than 540,000 registered brokers and 5,500 brokerages.

Higher Irish tax take

BUOYANT tax returns in 1996, up more than 1tr£1 billion (£901 million) from the previous year, provided some relief for the Irish Government yesterday as it continued to grapple with the effect of sterling's strength on the Irish pound. The Department of Finance, in its annual economic review, also published yesterday, has revised upwards many of its forecasts for 1997 growth. It forecasts gross national product to rise 6.5 per cent instead of 5.5 per cent.

Pru ScotAm go-ahead

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, said that she has decided on the information at present before her, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Director General of Fair Trading, not to refer the proposed acquisition by Prudential Corporation of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society and its subsidiaries to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Prudential shares yesterday rose 13p to close at 595p.

New Clydeport chief

CLYDEPORT, the Glasgow port and property services group, has appointed a new chief executive with no ports experience in the wake of losing both its managing director and executive chairman over the past six months. Tom Allison, 49, will join the firm in September. Mr Allison is currently a director of CSC Forest Products, a joint venture between Glunz and Hann based in Sterling with annual turnover of around £250 million and 1,300 employees.

Surprise drop at NAB

NATIONAL Australia Bank announced a surprise 9.5 per cent drop in third-quarter profits. Net profit fell to A\$504 million (£222 million) in the three months to June 30, from A\$557 million in the March quarter and A\$505 million in the June quarter of 1996. The slide shocked the market, prompting a sell-off. However, NAB has been warning the market for a year that a price war in the key home mortgage market would slice into Australian lending margins.

Conlan moves in at Trocadero

By FRASER NELSON

JOHN CONLAN, who is credited with building First Leisure from a Forté buyout into a £500 million entertainment group, is to take the reins at Trocadero, the London leisure complex set up by Nigel Wray.

Mr Conlan, who left First Leisure when Michael Grade took over as chief executive in May, has been recruited on a joint ticket with Nick Tamblin — his former lieutenant at First Leisure. He replaces Mr Wray as chairman and Mr Tamblin succeeds Nick Leslau as managing director.

Mr Conlan, a widely respected figure in the industry, said that he will immediately start a hunt for acquisitions using the £73 million that Trocadero gained when it sold

the rights to its London centre back to Burford.

Mr Conlan is to look at retail sites and adding to the business's intellectual property portfolio, which includes the rights to Enid Blyton characters. He said: "Apart from making sure the businesses in the Trocadero centre work well, there is little else to do there. We would like to make acquisitions in both sides of the business."

Mr Wray, who is taking a non-executive role, said Trocadero can avoid Sega if it fails to bring in £6 million of pre-tax profits by the end of summer 1999. Sega's site at the Trocadero centre was due to bring in a million people a year, but has fallen short of expectations.

United Utilities to defend Staples departure

Pitcher under pressure

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANGES to the board of United Utilities are expected to be announced today as Sir Desmond Pitcher, executive chairman, moves to try to calm investor unease after this week's sudden departure of Brian Staples, the chief executive.

As Sir Desmond faces shareholders at the company's annual meeting he is likely to announce at least one new non-executive director and could name a successor to Derek Green, the new chief executive who was promoted from the managing director's

role at the company's utility division.

Institutional investors who were both shocked at the departure of Mr Staples and uneasy at the need for an executive chairman have increased pressure on Sir Desmond to shore up the board with heavyweight appointments. The non-executives include Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW, and others with strong local connections. Eric Clark, head of the remuneration committee, is a non-executive director of the Merseyside Development Corporation,

where Sir Desmond is chairman. Frank Sanderson served on the North West Water Authority board, while Jane Newell is chairman of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Sir Desmond is set to mount a strong defence over Mr Staples' departure at the agn in Manchester. But the meeting is unlikely to be as rough as last year's, when the board faced a shareholder revolt and demonstrations over long-term incentive plans.

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Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE			OVERDRAFTS		
Effective from 10 July 1997			Band		
6.75% per annum			Per Month		
Equiv. Annual Rate %			Equiv. Annual Rate %		
LOANS			MORTGAGES		
Business Loan Standard and Farm Business Loan Standard			Band		
Business Loan Preferential and Farm Business Loan Preferential			Per Month		
Small Business Loan Standard and Small Business Loan and Farm Small Business Loan			Equiv. Annual Rate %		
1.02			A (and Standard)		
0.85			B		
1.12			C		
1.02			D		
12.44 (APR 14.21)*			Unauthorised		
12.24 (APR 12.91)*			2.00		
24.00					
INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS					
Premier Interest Account*			Clients Call Account		
Gross Rate %			Half Yearly Option		
Gross CAR %			Monthly Option		
£250,000+			Gross Rate %		
£100,000+			Gross CAR %		
£50,000+			Gross Rate %		
£25,000+			Gross CAR %		
Below £25,000			Gross Rate %		
Business Reserve Account			Treasury Account		
Gross Rate %			Gross %		
Gross CAR %			Net %		
£100,000+			£250,000+		
Below £100,000			£100,000+		
Business Call Account			£50,000+		
Gross Rate %			£20,000+		
Gross CAR %			Below £20,000		
£250,000+			Deposit Account		
£100,000+			Half Yearly Option		
£50,000+			Monthly Option		
£25,000+			Gross Rate %		
Below £25,000			Gross CAR %		
4.15			Gross Rate %		
4.13			Gross CAR %		
3.85			Gross Rate %		
3.92			Gross CAR %		
3.50			Gross Rate %		
3.56			Gross CAR %		
3.20			Gross Rate %		
3.25			Gross CAR %		
2.95			Gross Rate %		
2.99			Gross CAR %		

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice is for information only.

*Gross CAR = (gross annual rate - 100) x 12 / (360 - 100) x 100.

*NET - the annual interest rate after deduction of tax at the appropriate rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Customers should consult their tax adviser for the correct rate.

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Bank		Bank	
Buy		Sell	
Australia	2.38	Australia	2.38
Austria	2.38	Austria	2.38
Belgium	2.38	Belgium	2.38
Canada	2.38	Canada	2.38
Cyprus	2.38	Cyprus	2.38
Denmark	2.38	Denmark	2.38
France	2.38	France	2.38
Germany	2.38	Germany	2.38
Greece	2.38	Greece	2.38
Hong Kong	2.38	Hong Kong	2.38
Ireland	2.38	Ireland	2.38
Italy	2.38	Italy	2.38
Japan	2.38	Japan	2.38
Netherlands	2.38	Netherlands	2.38
Portugal	2.38	Portugal	2.38
Spain	2.38	Spain	2.38
Sweden	2.38	Sweden	2.38
Switzerland	2.38	Switzerland	2.38
Turkey	2.38	Turkey	2.38
USA	2.38	USA	2.38

For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to transfer of cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

Sir Andrew's elegant solution



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Goldman Sachs — which boasts Gavin Davies, many people's favoured candidate as the next deputy governor of the Bank of England, as one of its partners — is a great fan of performance-related pay. One bond trader — employed with a basic salary of £40,000 — picked up a bonus of £950,000 recently. The current deputy governor, Howard Davies, takes over as chairman of the Securities and Investments Board a week today, just as the SIB starts questioning whether this is actually a sensible way to pay people in the City.

Sir Andrew Large should know a few things about this. He used to run the London arm of Swiss Bank Corporation — one of the most aggressive firms in the City — and is widely tipped to take the particular hot seat of chief executive at NatWest Markets. He is not attacking fat cat pay — but wondering if the City far cats are getting the right sort of cream for the right sort of work. If a trader sells a five-year interest rate option to another bank, should he be paid for this hard work now or when the contract is finished? The bank might run into trouble before the option matures, the market could move wildly against the deal or any sort of factors could affect the transaction. The SIB says: look at the risks of this deal, and hedge the exposure. This might make the deal less profitable and give the trader a smaller bonus this

year, but it may save you from shocks in a few years' time. And the SIB goes further. It says if you are the boss of the firm, and you allow a pay structure that encourages traders to take unnecessary risks, then you shoulder as much blame as the traders.

This is an overdue and welcome move, coming with an initiative to make companies detail who is responsible for what. This means that if your rogue trader in Singapore is going crazy in the derivatives markets, you know exactly who should be looking over his shoulder. Should anything go wrong, then both the firm and the SIB will know who to blame. But there should be less chance of things going wrong because the SIB will come and look at a firm's structure every few months and say: "Does this person know enough about this subject to understand what his subordinates are up to?"

The only trouble the SIB has will be implementing this. It is facing a tricky conversion into the grand regulator of all beings — taking over the roles of the Bank of England, SFA, PIA, Imro and all. As a statutory regulator it will have to act at all

times within the framework of the commercial law — unlike the SEA or PIA, which work under the principle: "You are a member of our club, abide by the rules." And, as a report from the lawyers Herbert Smith commissioned by the SIB point out, the law is a blunt instrument in regulation. The SIB will tell the Treasury next week how it thinks this particular circle can be squared. One hopes Sir Andrew can find an elegant solution.

The Impulse driving new ICI

A the advertisement says: "Men can't help acting on impulse." The idea being that the perfume — made by Unilever — makes men want to buy flowers for women wearing the scent. At Unilever, Charles Miller Smith was responsible for manufacturing Impulse. Once at ICI he bought the Unilever

business and now ICI smells like a different company.

Since it was formed in 1927, ICI has been the very embodiment of the heavy chemicals industry, the bellwether of British industry that made the raw materials for the people who make the products which made Britain great. It is now suddenly the company that makes Tommy Girl, a fragrance from Tommy Hilfiger, the overhyped American designer. This is a breath of fresh air round at ICI's Millbank headquarters — although as one spokesman put it yesterday: "We're still trying to get our heads around some of this posh stuff."

Tommy Girl is one small example of the extent of the changes that Mr Miller Smith has made at ICI over the past three months. In from Unilever have come Quest, the fragrance and flavouring business, and National Starch, which makes speciality starches and industrial

adhesives. Out to Dupont have gone polyester polymers and titanium dioxide.

One important benefit is that much more of ICI's business will be in areas that investors can actually understand — such as paints, detergents and food. Goodness gracious, ICI is nearly in the consumer good business. It has always had Dulux paints but how many of us can name any other product in which ICI has had a hand.

This move up the value chain, as Mr Miller Smith describes it, means it will no longer be necessary to try to remember exactly for what tioxide or polyethylene terephthalate are used. And it will no longer be possible to blame bad results on the latest downturn in the unforgiving chemicals cycle.

The ICI that emerges will stand a much better chance of producing steady growth. It will also be much less exposed to the currency swings that are doing so much

damage to this year's results. The company will not be so reliant on exports as more of its output is produced close to local markets. Mr Miller Smith is planning substantial communications programmes to explain the extent of these changes to his own employees and to the wider world. Goodbye old Imperial Chemical Industries, hello new ICI.

Paying Arnault to go away

Bernard Arnault's plan for a three-way merger of his wines and spirits interests with Guinness and Grand Metropolitan would have more appeal if it were not clear that he would control it. UK investors have only to look at the easy way M Arnault treats LVMH assets to see that being an outsider in a company that he effectively controlled would be a bad idea.

Spirits have more in common with up-market stout than with luxury luggage. But the logic of putting Guinness and GrandMet together as GMC Brands rests only on cutting costs and gaining market power in spirits. The UK groups cooked up their merger from stock

market weakness. They need to take the initiative now if they are to escape the web being woven by M Arnault. His stake in GrandMet need not be a blocking minority if other shareholders are united. The merger could also be remade more expensively as a takeover.

Leaving M Arnault as an aggrieved partner is not, however, likely to appeal to shareholders. Lots of Guinness assets are subject to his machinations.

The answer may be to adopt M Arnault's alternative strategy, buying part or all of LVMH's drinks interests in a way that takes him out of the picture. If Guinness and GrandMet are to avoid paying through the nose for this, they need to work harder to restore the credibility of their own plan. They must also remember that they are not yet GMC Brands, but separate companies with separate shareholders.

United front

IN Manchester today Sir Desmond Pitcher will attempt to soothe United Utilities shareholders after the departure of Brian Staples, the chief executive. Expect questions about the structure of the board, succession and Sir Desmond's general management style. Apparently he will reveal a "high profile" non-executive appointment. Let's hope this is someone who has never been on the board of the Merseyside Development Corporation.

Cookson in selling and buying mood

By CARL MORTIMER

RICHARD OSTER, chief executive of Cookson, the industrial group, said yesterday it would have £500 million at its disposal to buy new businesses. The company, which announced unchanged pre-tax profits of £85 million for the half year to June, is in advanced discussion to sell two businesses.

Mr Oster said: "That will reduce gearing to the mid 20 per cent level, leaving us flexibility to borrow £250 million. We can generate another £250 million over the next five years from cashflow."

Mr Oster is to become chairman of the group when Robert Malpas, 70, retires in October. The chief executive's job will go to Steve Howard, currently joint managing director, who was in competition with Donald Carciari, joint managing director.

Mr Carciari will retire from the board at the end of the year. Mr Malpas indicated that Mr Carciari would receive full compensation in accordance with his two-year

contract. Including bonuses, Mr Carciari earned £935,000 last year. Two years' basic salary would total £766,000.

Group profits were hurt by the 7 per cent increase in sterling against the dollar. At constant exchange rates profits would have been up 9 per cent over the half year.

Order books are growing at Cookson's electronic materials business, which had suffered from the downturn in the personal computer industry.

Organic sales growth was 9 per cent in the first half, but the company indicated that growth rose from 2 per cent in the first quarter to 13 per cent in the past three months. However, prices and margins remained under pressure and profits in the division rose only 4 per cent to £33 million.

Cookson is raising the dividend 5 per cent to 4.1p per share after a 9 per cent rise in earnings to 8.7p a share.

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City Diary, page 27

Boots price takes step backwards

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS shares fell yesterday after a strong run on disappointing news on trading.

First-quarter sales at Boots Healthcare International (BHI), the over-the-counter medicine manufacturing arm, rose 5.9 per cent like-for-like and 13 per cent in total. At Do It All, the do-it-yourself chain, like-for-like sales increased only 2.4 per cent.

Analysts said that they had been expecting total sales from BHI of at least 20 per cent because of a round of international product launches.

Halford's same store sales growth of 3.4 per cent was also poorly received. Boots The Chemists pleased with 5.1 per cent like-for-like growth, while Boots Opticians showed a 24.1 per cent same store increase in sales.

Boots shares, which peaked recently at 82.5p after climbing from a low in December of 59.1p, fell 29p to 78.7p yesterday.

Tempos, page 26

Ernie to pay extra £2m in prizes

By ANNE ASHWORTH

AN EXTRA £2 million will be distributed in Premium Bond prizes from November. There will also be rate increases on several National Savings investment schemes, after criticism that rates were becoming uncompetitive as they had failed to respond to the three recent base-rate rises.

However, rates on National Savings five-year fixed-rate products are not being raised as they are now linked to the yields on gilt-edged stocks, which have weakened.

National Savings is raising the Premium Bond "interest rate" from 4.75 per cent to 5 per cent. This is the percentage of cash invested in bonds paid out in monthly prizes. At the same time, Ernie will be distributing fewer £50 prizes but increasing the number in the £100 to £50,000 range.

The Income Bond rate will be 0.5 per cent better from September 5, while the Investment Account rate will rise by 0.2 per cent, to 0.35 per cent, from August 8.

Wembley faces \$22.8m theatre tickets bill

WEMBLEY, the operator of London's largest football stadium, has lost a \$22.8 million (£13.6 million) law suit over the failure of an American theatre tickets venture set up six years ago (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said yesterday that it had spent £2 million in legal fees arguing that it was not liable for the collapse of a joint venture with MovieFone, its former American partner, to provide theatre tickets around New Jersey.

Wembley sold 50 per cent of the venture to Ticket Master,

MovieFone's main US rival, four years ago. When the two US companies could not work together, they sued each other.

Although Wembley sold out completely to Ticket Master three years ago, it maintained a contract that gave assurances that the venture would achieve a degree of success.

A US court ruled that Ticket Master should pay \$22.75 million damages to MovieFone — which Ticket Master is passing to Wembley under the terms of the contract. Wembley is considering its options.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 25 1997
EMPUS
or the flowerpot

DTI at core of Labour's drive to forge partnership with business

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WHEN Britain's top bosses were breakfasted at 11 Downing Street recently, their relief was obvious — not necessarily to be talking to a Labour government, again, but to be talking to a government that was not the Conservative Government. If the dying years of the Tories not talking to business, then the first months of the Labour Government are starting to see the forging of the new partnership between business and government that Tony Blair wants.

The Department of Trade and Industry, headed by Margaret Beckett as President of the Board of Trade, is the central Whitehall department for that new partnership. Yet in the past, few Whitehall ministries have had to justify themselves as much as the DTI.

Other departments, such as the Treasury, are flashier. Others, like agriculture, are just duller. But the DTI? What do its 9,000 civil servants do? What is their job? — to run business instead of business running itself. What is the DTI for?

Such searching questions were commonplace in the Conservative years — an era in which DTI bosses such as Lord Ridley and Peter Lilley were running a department for which, ideologically, they saw no justification. While they saw a clear job for the DTI in, for example, promoting British exports, or winning overseas business, they viewed as abhorrent what they saw as the department's meddling in business matters best left to business itself.

Oddly enough, it is not Labour's arrival at the DTI that has reshaped the department, but that of Michael Heseltine as President of the Board of Trade. With his declared creed

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MARGARET BECKETT:
President of the Board of Trade
MP for Derby South, aged 54, Labour's senior and most respected woman. Fought Tony Blair and John Prescott for party leader and deputy leader jobs after running the party in the wake of John Smith's death. Cool, competent, and diligent, she has already won approval from DTI officials on how she is handling the job.

LORD CLINTON-DAVIS:
Trade Minister
Aged 68, ex-MP for Hackney Central and a trade minister in the last Labour government.

IAN MCGARTNEY:
Industry Minister
Aged 46, MP for Macclesfield. Pugnacious and hard-working, managed brilliant by-election campaign in Wirral South which foreshadowed Labour's general election victory. Former seaman and chef, spent early 1970s unemployed. Pre-election, laid careful groundwork for Labour's plan for a national minimum wage.

NIGEL GRIFFITHS:
Consumer Affairs Minister
Aged 42, MP for Edinburgh South. Castigated by opponents for being over-keen and obsessed by publicity. Griffiths obtained a formidable string of leaked policy papers while in opposition, to Conservatives' great discomfort. Apparently tireless, is distracting officials by regularly staying in the office until the small hours.

LORD HOLLOCK:
Special adviser
Aged 52, the United News and Media chief executive is part-time adviser to Mrs Beckett on industrial policy. Co-founded IPPR think-tank, and is a now a key link to business.



LORD SIMON OF HIGHBURY:
Europe and Competitiveness Minister
The appointment of the former BP chairman was seen as a coup for Tony Blair in his quest for business support. But Lord Simon, 57, minister at both the DTI and the Treasury, has been dogged by a Conservative-stoked row about his continued holding of shares in his former company.

JOHN BATTLE:
Energy Minister
Aged 46, MP for Leeds West. Earnest John Prescott sound-alike. Background is in social issues, and especially housing. Day to day responsibility for telecommunications recently transferred to Barbara Roche.

BARBARA ROCHE:
Small Firms Minister
Aged 43. Like Ian McCartney, another representative of Little Labour, the diminutive MP for Hornsey and Wood Green transformed issue of small business from a traditional Labour no-go area. Highly regarded by business groups.

MICHAEL SCHOLAR:
Permanent Secretary
Aged 55, widely liked and respected, revitalised department since replacing dry-as-dust predecessor Sir Peter Gregson last year. Ex-Cambridge, Berkeley, Harvard, a Treasury mandarin transplanted to DTI and maintaining close Treasury links.

SHEILA WATSON:
Special adviser
Aged 31, long-standing Beckett staffer and former Institute for Fiscal Studies researcher.

DAN CORRY:
Special adviser
Aged 37, ex-Treasury economist, was economic head at Institute for Public Policy Reform, Blair's think-tank.

governing the maximum hours people will be allowed to work.

Such issues do not fit the Conservatives' definition of competitiveness. They have demanded a shift in thinking in the DTI's many offices along London's Victoria Street. That has been helped by Michael Scholar's arrival a year ago as the DTI's Permanent Secretary — its chief civil servant.

In the Heseltine years, officials working on pet subjects such as competitiveness and privatising the Post Office

had close access to him. Those who did not had to make do with the ossified lines of communication up to Mr Scholar's predecessor. With a fresh approach from Mr Scholar, and much closer contact from Margaret Beckett's ministers, that has changed. Morale has improved. The new approach will be set out shortly in a new statement of aims and values for the department.

But such issues demand, too, a similar shift in thinking in the companies with which the DTI deals — that White-

hall officials with whom they have talked for many years about issues promoted by the Conservative Government are now promoting with equal vigour subjects such as trade union recognition and the minimum wage, which business, in general, views as unhelpful.

Business leaders are already seeing some key changes. Mr Heseltine scrapped the old National Economic Development Council, set up by the Conservatives in the early 1980s to bring together employers and

Old Asia hand

ANOTHER of last May's casualties has hauled himself on to a quoted company's board. Malcolm Rifkind has been made a non-executive director of Ramco Energy. This oil explorer seems to make a habit of putting lost causes out of their misery — a day previously Ramco took over Sir Robert Horton's ailing JKN Oil & Gas. Why Malcolm Rifkind, though, except that both he and Ramco are Scottish?

The company has an interest in a huge oilfield in the Caspian. Rifkind himself has a particular interest in central Asia. Ramco says: I wonder whether, had the oil been in Timbuktu, he would have been similarly fascinated by central Africa? Rifkind points out that the aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet Union was high on the agenda when he was Defence and then Foreign Secretary, and he still knows several heads of state there. Fair enough. But as other rejected Tony grandees trickle through to the boardrooms, one can only hope shareholders will demand a good explanation.

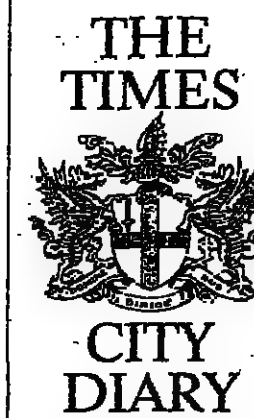
● **CLARE SPOTTISWOODE** has been awarded an honorary degree in Social Sciences at Brunel University, an establishment with which the Cambridge and Yale-educated gas regulator has only tenuous links but that's honorary degrees for you. Professor Martin Cave, vice-principal, praised Spottiswoode at yesterday's ceremony for her "grace and humour" and said she had been helped in her job by "not particularly astute decisions made by executives of the companies she regulates over such things as inflated salaries". He then pulled up short, recalling that today's batch of honorary degrees include Sir Peter Bonfield, the "entirely blameless", he said, chief executive of another regulated utility, BT.

Tunnel vision

ROBERT MALPAS is standing down as chairman of Cookson Group in October, when he will have reached the age of 70. But what of Malpas's other chairmanship, as joint head of Eurotunnel? It seems they take a rather less ageist view of things, and there is ample precedent. André Bénard, once the French half of the duo, carried on well into his 70s. Aged 75 next month, he only retired as chairman three years ago and left the board last year. Malpas has only been there a year or so. So he could be around a while yet.

Front row

EVEN billionaires aren't what they used to be. The latest edition of *Forbes* lists 447 of them. So the American magazine strips out the dross, the trust fund babies, and concentrates



on the top 200 that have made it by their own efforts. In for the first time is Tony O'Reilly, former rugby international and chairman of HJ Heinz. Waterford Wedgwood and Independent Newspapers.

● **REMEMBER** all those Woolwich share certificates that went astray? Well, a reader says that the headed notepaper in his local branch, in the High Street, Bromley, Kent, stubbornly insists it is in Bromley High Street. Except that by a quirk of London geography, the real Bromley High Street is 12 miles away, in the East End.

Firth forth

TAKE a close look at the accounts of Yorkshire Foods. The prune and nut products group lost £26.3 million last year, paid no dividend and is in talks with bankers about its future. Yet the chairman, Mike Firth, and two other executive directors picked up £324,000 in bonuses.

These apparently were "discretionary awards made in recognition of exceptional work carried out during the year". Questions about what this "exceptional work" might be should be directed with some urgency to the non-executive directors — led by Sir Marcus Fox, deposed Conservative MP for Shipley — blimey, another one — who now knows a great deal about losses.

MARTIN WALLER



"Bliss! No TV, no radio, no papers — mind you, we couldn't afford it without our Nationwide windfall!"

The In-Tray

- **Competitiveness.** New book in DTI. Margaret Beckett is keen to maintain a government drive to improve the performance of British companies and to make more of a rhetoric on a new partnership with business. White Paper due next year.
- **Utilities.** Review of regulation of privatised utilities like gas, water and electricity.

- **Competition policy.** As well as Beckson or cases like Bass's plan to acquire Carlsberg, consultative Green Paper on competition expected shortly. Bill due in the autumn. Aim is to prohibit anti-competitive agreements and abuse of market power by companies.
- **Minimum wage.** Low Pay Commission chaired by business academic Professor George Bain will recommend, probably next spring.

- **Post Office.** Yet another review of Post Office, this time on how, rather than whether, to give it the greater commercial freedom it wants — but not to privatise it. Strikes also looming again in Royal Mail this winter.
- **Employment law.** White Paper due before the end of the year on Labour's plans — seized on by Conservatives in the election — to enforce, if necessary, statutory recognition of trade unions where a majority of workforce wants it.

Britain's first-ever national minimum wage as legislation goes through Parliament to give it statutory force.

Ted Baker buttons up the Blair vote

All cool people wear his shirts, Ray Kelvin says. Yesterday his label came to market. Sarah Cunningham takes a look behind the float

The success of yesterday's flotation of Ted Baker was probably caused in May when the new Prime Minister's sons, Nicky and Euan Blair, were pictured wearing Ted Baker clothing as they entered 10 Downing Street for the first time.

The Downing Street connection carries on for Ray Kelvin, the fast-talking 41-year-old behind the label. He has been invited there next week, and, as often happens, the officials sending the invitation were meant to send the invitation to them. They rang to ask should it be Mr and Mrs Ray Kelvin or Mr and Mrs Ted Baker?

Kevin claims that it is not only the Blair children who wear Ted Baker shirts, but the Prime Minister himself — because "all cool people wear them. We're pinched just right and it fits in with the Blair's image". This is classic Kelvin talk: he did not make himself worth more than £40 million from the flotation — he was given a £3 million one-off payment, sold about £125 million of shares and kept another £26 million worth — by letting Ted Baker be underwritten.

His sales pattern and the steady flow of publicity from events such as the Blair photographs make up for the fact that Ted Baker does not advertise. This is very unusual for a fashion brand, although, as Kelvin points out, "Marks & Spencer did not advertise until a few years ago."

Turning Ted Baker into the



Downing Street endorsement for Ted Baker from Nicky and Euan Blair

Kevin: does not advertise brand

next M&S is not on the cards, however. There are no plans to open more shops in the UK, where there are now just seven. Kelvin says that this is because he wants to develop the wholesale rather than retail side of the business, and turn Ted Baker into an international brand.

His plans for the business, which also includes expanding the women's wear operation and developing the new Edward Baker line, were endorsed yesterday by the City, which pushed the shares up from the placing price of 135p to 139½p. The institutions were impressed not by the

image, he says, but by the margins. "Not many companies make £4 million operating profit on £14 million of turnover," he said.

Until yesterday, the company has been unwilling to advertise the placement as it is to advertise the clothes. Kelvin has been unavailable to

talk to the press and, his publicists said, was busy touring the institutions. The pattern seemed to do the trick and 40 of them have taken up the shares. "Ted was pleased," Kelvin says.

The money Kelvin himself will make is not, he claims, going to change his life. So far

his only plan is to "buy a new fishing rod" and ensure he has plenty of time to spend with his wife, Georgia, and their two boys, aged two-and-a-half years and four-and-a-half years.

The millions follow 20 years of hard work, he says. Born in Enfield, North London, he attended a business studies course at Middlesex Polytechnic for one year before dropping out and setting himself up in business. He ran a women's wear manufacturing business for ten years, making private label clothes for mainstream high street retailers. It did not make him happy. "I did not enjoy working with the retailers and knew I would enjoy developing brands." So does he enjoy it? "I'm in love."

Ted Baker has not had the smoothest of histories, however. Kelvin founded it in 1988 and sold out to A Goldberg, a Scottish retail chain, as part of a £1.1 million package. Goldbergs then went into liquidation, and Kelvin bought the business back in 1990 for about £700,000.

The recent strong sales rise, of 25 per cent in the first 20 weeks of this year, is in part due to the Ted Baker secret weapon: Kelvin's mum, Trudie Kelvin, who is in her seventies, works every Wednesday and Saturday at the Ted Baker concession in Harrods. If she spots you, or you ask an innocent question such as the way to the lavatory, you can be sure you'll end up buying a Ted Baker shirt. Kelvin claims proudly.

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	% Per Annum	
Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate, Home Loan Rate and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate from 25 July 1997	6.2	
OVERDRAFTS		
	% Per Month	% APR*
Standard	0.00	7.4
Gold Service, Asset Management Service Current Account and Lloyds Private Banking Visa	0.99	12.5
Classic Account Preferential, Current Account Preferential**, Graduate Service, High Interest Cheque Account Preferential and American Express**	1.25	16.0
Classic Account Standard, Current Account Standard*, Choice Account and High Interest Cheque Account Standard	1.45	16.8
Budget Account	1.50	19.5
Unauthorised**	2.00	26.8

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg. arrangement fees/ securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.
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Carlson takes Inspirations in £42m deal

By DOMINIC WALSH

INSPIRATIONS, the ailing tour operator run by Vic Fatan, is to be acquired by Carlson, the US hospitality group, in a recommended offer valuing the company at £42 million.

Mr Fatan, who floated the company in 1993, will reap about £2.5 million from selling his stake, and will be leaving the company. The board as a whole is pocketing £9.4 million.

The offer values each ordinary share in Inspirations at 75p, compared with the closing price on Wednesday of 61.5p. The shares gained 10p on news of the deal.

In a separate agreement, British Airways, which holds nearly six million convertible shares, is also selling its stake to Carlson, for £5.5 million.

Inspirations expanded rapidly after its flotation into the UK's fifth biggest tour com-

panies, becoming an integrated operator through the acquisition two years ago of Caledonian Airways from British Airways.

However, its image was tarnished last year when sun-seekers suffered a summer of delays after BA failed to deliver aircraft on time. The dispute ended with BA having to pay Inspirations £6 million in compensation, but the cost of the delays was put at £17 million and pushed the company into losses of £13.2 million last year. Yesterday it said losses for the half year to March 31 had reduced from £13.3 million to £11.7 million, and that no interim dividend would be paid for the time being.

The board admitted the disruption had seriously weakened the company's ability to keep growing, and a sale to Carlson has been widely expected for several months. Last month, Inspirations announced it was in discussions with a potential purchaser.

Carlson, which is doing the deal through its Carlson Leisure Group (UK) subsidiary, intends to use the acquisition as a springboard to rapid expansion in this country. It already operates 409 travel agent shops under the AT Mays brand, of which 92 are owned by Inspirations. The AT Mays name will be re-branded, possibly as World Choice.

Mike Barr, president of CLG, said CLG was negotiating to sell a 51 per cent stake in Caledonian to satisfy European Union requirements on airline ownership.

The Office of Fair Trading is conducting an inquiry into the vertical integration of travel agencies in the £7 billion UK market. Thomson, the largest UK tour operator, owns the Lunn Poly travel agencies while Airtours, its biggest competitor, owns Going Places.

Regulator acts to keep BT in line at home

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT faces new curbs to ensure its international expansion is not funded at the expense of UK services.

With the company poised to complete the controversial £12 billion takeover of MCI, the US telecoms group, the industry regulator yesterday set out plans for tougher licence requirements. BT will have to pledge it will do nothing that could jeopardise existing licence requirements and supply a certificate each year to prove this. The certificate could be subjected to an auditor's report.

Don Cruickshank, the regulator, and BT have been in talks over the increased licence obligations since March — well before it became public that MCI had plunged into heavier losses than expected on its domestic development.

The profits warning from MCI threw into doubt BT's takeover of the company,

with investors fearing the UK company could pay too much in the deal. Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, is currently in the US reviewing MCI's operations.

Mr Cruickshank said: "Developments since the publication of the March consultative document have underlined the need for extra regulatory vigilance, although they have not led me to materially change the conclusions of my regulatory financial assessment." Mr Cruickshank said he supported BT's moves to become a global company, but said he had a duty "to make sure that as BT expands its interests overseas it can continue to fulfil its obligations to customers and other telecom operators in the UK."

BT said it was disappointed at the move. A spokeswoman for the group said: "BT will continue to invest in the UK."



Graham Foster, managing director of Eve, the civil engineer, reported a £1.5 million annual pre-tax profit to March 31 (£4.6 million loss). Total payout, 4.5p (1p)

Stake in France for Willis Corroon

By GEORGE SIVELL

WILLIS CORROON is to take a one-third stake in France's largest independent insurance broker and has entered an option arrangement to emerge with a majority shareholding in years to come.

The move by Willis Corroon to buy 33.36 per cent of Gras Savoye comes at a time of consolidation among world insurance brokers, although the London broker does not want to get caught up in mega-mergers. Nor does it want to go private, like its rival C.E. Heath.

Willis Corroon is paying £41 million cash and transferring Willis Corroon France to Gras Savoye. Willis has also taken a call option that could take its shareholding above 50 per cent after 12 years. A put option giving Gras Savoye shareholders the right to sell three years after completion of the deal has also been agreed.

It is not envisaged that Willis Corroon would ever take 100 per cent of Gras Savoye — in order not to destroy the French character of the business. Gras Savoye is the world's ninth-largest independent insurance broker and operates in 28 countries in Europe and French-speaking Africa.

Willis Corroon expects the French deal to enhance earnings in the first full year. Gras Savoye had gross revenues of £107 million in 1996, against Willis's £735 million. Willis will have three representatives on the French board.

Lloyd's funds unveil profits

By GEORGE SIVELL

THREE quoted Lloyd's insurance funds have issued results. Finsbury Underwriting Investment Trust said it will return almost all its underwriting profits to shareholders in a special 10p-a-share dividend on October 2. This absorbs £3.12 million of £3.19 million of net underwriting profits after tax for the 1994 Lloyd's underwriting year. In future, profits will

be returned via special dividends based on profits after tax and perceived profits for future years.

Investors have had a 0.8p interim dividend from Finsbury's other activities. A final is expected when results for the year to June 30 are declared.

Euclidian had pre-tax profits of £1.18 million in the year to March 31 (£683,000 in the pre-

vious 17 months). Earnings per share after a goodwill write-off fell from 2.33p to 2.19p. A dividend for the year was paid as a 2p net interim in January.

CLM Insurance Fund lifted pre-tax profits from £1.3 million to £1.5 million in its half to June 30. Earnings rose from 1.50p a share to 1.63p, to be an interim dividend on August 29.

United Assurance optimistic on sales

NEW business taken by United Assurance, the recently merged United Friendly and Refuge Assurance, fell in the first half of this year because of a shakeout in the joint company's sales force. The United Friendly operation in London is in the process of being moved to Wilmslow, near Manchester, after the £1.4 billion merger. About 640 home sale staff have already left through non-replacement and the company intends to reduce the home sales force from 6,400 at the time of the merger to 4,200 by the end of the restructuring.

Premium and unit trust income fell 4.6 per cent to £31.1 million in the six months to June 30, although single premium life and pension business grew 4.5 per cent to £36.8 million. Unit trust and Pop sales rose 8.2 per cent to £23.8 million. The company said that "it's not been the greatest year" but added that it was an "optimistic story" that will "evolve next year".

Maidenform protection

MAIDENFORM, the US lingerie company, yesterday filed for bankruptcy court protection from its creditors. Brands owned by the privately owned business include Oscar de la Renta and Sublime. The company will attempt to reorganize its finances under court supervision. Maidenform's troubles are said to stem from poor management of recent acquisitions. Maidenform's weakness is thought to have been inefficiency in manufacturing bras, which may contain up to 20 different pieces.

Abbey bid completed

ABBEY NATIONAL has completed its £191 million bid for Cater Allen, the discount house. The offer was declared unconditional with acceptance in respect of 85.2 per cent of Cater Allen's shares. Cater Allen will now become part of Abbey's Treasury Services arm (ANTS) which deals with wholesale banking and treasury and last year contributed 20 per cent of the group's profits. The Cater Allen name will remain, and the addition of its business will increase ANTS' assets by 20 per cent.

New jobs for Ulster

ALMOST 100 jobs are to be created in Londonderry, thanks to £8 million worth of new investments. Saint Brendan's, the Irish Cream Liqueur Company, is investing £6.2 million to expand its export sales and to develop new products in a project that will provide 53 new jobs. Also, E&I Engineering is investing £1.5 million to develop new products and create 43 new jobs. The new employment will be some consolation to Londonderry after the closure earlier this month of United Technologies, a US company, with the loss of 600 jobs.

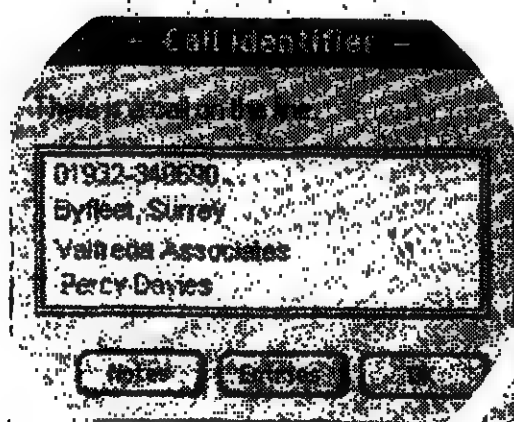
Claremont revamp

CLAREMONT GARMENTS, the clothing manufacturer, is to split the jobs of chairman and chief executive performed by Peter Wiegand and to sell Belrise, its non-Marks & Spencer supply business. Mr Wiegand will continue as chairman and John Gilliam, at present a non-executive, will become chief executive from September 10. As part of the disposal process, David Price, the group technical director, has been given permission to put together a management team to make an offer for Belrise and has resigned as a director.

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Let your PC show you who's calling, who's called and much more...

For small businesses and home workers the same thought always arises whenever the phone rings. How should you greet the caller? Are you prepared to receive an important business call? How can you quickly get the details of your last contact?



This was an all too familiar scenario for chartered surveyor, Bob Stupples, until he found a solution in the shape of a unique call management system from BT.

BT's new Callscape 100 is a small unit which simply connects Bob's PC to his

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OTHER FINANCIAL		13 ¹		13 ²		13 ³		13 ⁴		13 ⁵		13 ⁶		13 ⁷		13 ⁸		13 ⁹		13 ¹⁰		13 ¹¹		13 ¹²		13 ¹³		13 ¹⁴		13 ¹⁵		13 ¹⁶		13 ¹⁷		13 ¹⁸		13 ¹⁹		13 ²⁰		13 ²¹		13 ²²		13 ²³		13 ²⁴		13 ²⁵		13 ²⁶		13 ²⁷		13 ²⁸		13 ²⁹		13 ³⁰		13 ³¹		13 ³²		13 ³³		13 ³⁴		13 ³⁵		13 ³⁶		13 ³⁷		13 ³⁸		13 ³⁹		13 ⁴⁰		13 ⁴¹		13 ⁴²		13 ⁴³		13 ⁴⁴		13 ⁴⁵		13 ⁴⁶		13 ⁴⁷		13 ⁴⁸		13 ⁴⁹		13 ⁵⁰		13 ⁵¹		13 ⁵²		13 ⁵³		13 ⁵⁴		13 ⁵⁵		13 ⁵⁶		13 ⁵⁷		13 ⁵⁸		13 ⁵⁹		13 ⁶⁰		13 ⁶¹		13 ⁶²		13 ⁶³		13 ⁶⁴		13 ⁶⁵		13 ⁶⁶		13 ⁶⁷		13 ⁶⁸		13 ⁶⁹		13 ⁷⁰		13 ⁷¹		13 ⁷²		13 ⁷³		13 ⁷⁴		13 ⁷⁵		13 ⁷⁶		13 ⁷⁷		13 ⁷⁸		13 ⁷⁹		13 ⁸⁰		13 ⁸¹		13 ⁸²		13 ⁸³		13 ⁸⁴		13 ⁸⁵		13 ⁸⁶		13 ⁸⁷		13 ⁸⁸		13 ⁸⁹		13 ⁹⁰		13 ⁹¹		13 ⁹²		13 ⁹³		13 ⁹⁴		13 ⁹⁵		13 ⁹⁶		13 ⁹⁷		13 ⁹⁸		13 ⁹⁹		13 ¹⁰⁰	
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119 ¹ ₁	- ¹ ₁	7.79	6.98	758 ¹ ₁	539 ¹ ₁
107 ² ₂	- ² ₂	7.78	6.98	758 ² ₂	539 ² ₂
				157 ¹ ₁	121 ¹ ₁
				120 ² ₂	85 ² ₂
50 ³ ₃	- ³ ₃	6.67	6.97	209 ¹ ₁	148 ¹ ₁
174 ⁴ ₄	- ⁴ ₄	7.84	6.97	41 ² ₂	591 ² ₂
119 ⁵ ₅	- ⁵ ₅	7.57	6.97	157 ² ₂	121 ² ₂
98 ⁶ ₆	- ⁶ ₆	6.30	7.00	449 ³ ₃	375 ³ ₃
119 ⁷ ₇	- ⁷ ₇	7.27	6.95	103 ³ ₃	111 ³ ₃
107 ⁸ ₈	- ⁸ ₈	7.52	6.94	62 ⁴ ₄	62 ⁴ ₄
111 ⁹ ₉	- ⁹ ₉	7.10	6.90	273 ⁴ ₄	231 ⁴ ₄
119 ¹⁰ ₁₀	- ¹⁰ ₁₀	7.18	6.93	80 ⁵ ₅	62 ⁵ ₅
113 ¹¹ ₁₁	- ¹¹ ₁₁	7.66	6.86	132 ⁵ ₅	65 ⁵ ₅
				58 ⁶ ₆	58 ⁶ ₆
				62 ⁷ ₇	58 ⁷ ₇
				10 ⁸ ₈	6 ⁸ ₈
50 ⁹ ₉	- ⁹ ₉	6.94		103 ⁹ ₉	91 ⁹ ₉
50 ¹⁰ ₁₀	- ¹⁰ ₁₀	7.07		132 ¹⁰ ₁₀	91 ¹⁰ ₁₀
50 ¹¹ ₁₁	- ¹¹ ₁₁	7.23		113 ¹¹ ₁₁	91 ¹¹ ₁₁

OIL & GAS

130%	112% Abbot Group	131%	18
85%	22% Alliance Pwr	23%+	2
100%	50% Amr Oil & Gas	85%+	3
42%	25% Amer Pol	20%	
1500	77% Br. Telecom.	1250%+	11
255	134 BB	230%+	2
			76

2%	1% Debt Resources	100%	1%	44
1100	505% Barro's Capital	544	-	1 1/2
500	415 Cash Emerg	56%	+	54
80%	55 Comstock	18%	+	1/2
22	11% Cash Res.	21	-	1/2
20%	14% Data Pol			

3%	74% Dragon O&A	3	
30%	34% Edin Oil & Gas	27%	1 1.3
8%	3% Emerald Energy	8%	1/4
73%	604 Enterprise	68%	2 2.1
16%	10% Fortune	14%	
37%	26% Hardy Oil	35%	0.5
8%	5% In Tool & Sup	8%	

108 1/2	29 JGX Oil & Gas	47 -	1/2
284	218 LASMO	273 +	4 07
47 1/2	41 Laclede Units	41 1/2	25.0
92	87 Monument	80 1/2 -	1/2
265 1/2	263 1/2 Morse Hydro	314 1/2	1.8
19 1/2	18 Occidental	19	
195	113 1/2 C. Comstock	142 1/2	51

170	114	De Jaron	194	-	3
81	42	Peloz	55	-	14
49	34	Porten	47	-	13
57	39	Pilencrill Po	42	-	2
854	528	Ranger	561	-	34
2225	2521	Royal Dash FI	3034	-	25
4386	2950	Schlaenger	4359	-	26

79%	46% Small	70%	1%
44%	32% Small	432%	5
347%	234% Small	367%	4
6353%	4666% Total	5853%	50
21%	12% XCL	13%	

OTHER FINANCIAL				
101:	84% Aberdeen Asset	82	-	4 47
366	250 Principia	374	+	4 16
136	105% B&W	126	+	14 6.3

87%	67%	Heavy Bch Mol	70%	5.3
363	373	Breast low	328	- 2
211%	182%	Breast Dolphin	291	+ 17
782%	652%	Calcedonia	665	1.8
2800	2225	Carnellorj	2800	1.5
400%	380	Catb Ann	571	6.6
3.2%	263	Cutter	212%	1.1

26.6	51%	42% Chrysler	60	21
9.7	48%	35% Close Bros	100%	3.3
17.9	19%	12% EFT Group	180%+	1.7
	61%	44% EFM	450	6.9
	55%	42% East	44%	12.5
	48%	42% Esham Int	48	3.5

9.3	164	12 1/2	Plains Ind	18	8.5
	366 1/2	270	Genard	326 1/2 + 8	6.1
12.8	208 1/2	218 1/2	Hambros	224 1/2	4.2
	1430	1125	Henderson	1285 - 2 1/2	4.3
21.9	115	9 1/2	Investment Co f	102	3.7
18.5	257 1/2	217 1/2	Irony Same	212	5.5
27.0	243	197 1/2	Jordan Snd	220 + 7	3.9

1225	127	Johnson H	1397	3.6
789	600	465 Leopold J	525	4.3
142	500	439 Library Hill	525	3.8
	437	590 Ldn Forecasting	525	3.8
111	225	197 London Pacific	207	6.4
	111	85 Lon Scot Bk	87	8.4
92.2	217	170 Man Ed & F	196	6.9

146 1/2	187 1/2	M & G	122 1/2	3 1/2
180	112 1/2	WALSH	138 + 5 1/2	4 1/2
211	175 1/2	113 1/2 Paramount	170 - 2	1 1/2
284	282 1/2	278 1/2 Perpetual	268 1/2 - 2 1/2	3 1/2
195	836 1/2	500 Prudential	587 1/2 + 5	3 1/2
125	357	30 1/2 Rathbone Cos	306 1/2	1 1/2
	60 1/2	3 1/2 Pea Brothers	40 1/2	3 1/2

Stock	Price £	±	Div %	Grs
Treasury 11½% 2003-07	120½		9.75	7
Treasury 8½% 2007	110½	- ½	7.70	7
Treasury 7½% 2007	102½	- ½	7.10	6

Treas 9%, 2008	115 ²⁰⁰⁸	- 1 ₂₀	7.79	6
Treas 8%, 2009	100 ²⁰⁰⁹	- 1 ₂₀	7.29	6

(years)

Trends 5-1% 2010	93 rd ₂₀	- 2 ₀	6.67
Conty 9% 2011	97 th ₂₂	- 9 ₂₇	7.64
Trends 9% 2012	116 th ₂₂	- 6 ₂	7.59
Trends 5-1% 2008-12	98 th ₂₂	- 7 ₂₂	6.20
Trends 9% 2013	110 th ₂₂	- 3 ₆	7.27
Trends 5-1% 2013-15	107 th ₂₂	- 2 ₆	7.22

Trans 1998-2012-13	117 ¹² ₂₂	- 7 ₂₂	7.22	6
Trans 8% 2015	117 ¹² ₂₂	- 7 ₂₂	7.10	6
Trans 8% 2017	119 ¹⁴ ₂₄	- 7 ₂₄	7.82	6
Ti 8% 2021	119 ¹⁴ ₂₄	- 7 ₂₄	7.06	6

10% L.R.	50% - 10	6.94
10% L.R.	35% - 10	7.07
10% L.R.	50% - 10	7.23

predicted initiation of		10%	5%
Year II, 4th 1996	114% + 1m		2
Year II, 2nd 2001	105% = 1m	2.96	3
Year II, 2nd 2003	103% - 1m	3.13	3

Taxes R. 2nd 2004	110 th	- 1/2	3.19	3
Taxes R. 2nd 2005	194 th	- 1/2	3.23	3
Taxes R. 2nd 2006	173 rd	- 1/2	3.26	3
Taxes R. 2nd 2007	182	- 1/2	3.29	3
Taxes R. 2nd 2013	150 th	- 1/2	3.32	3
Taxes R. 2nd 2016	161 st	- 1/2	3.33	3

Trans. 2, 2'-bis (200)	154 ^{ms}	- ² ₃₀	3.30	3
Trans. 2, 2'-bis (200)	154 ^{ms}	- ² ₃₀	3.30	3
Trans. 2, 2'-bis (200)	154 ^{ms}	- ² ₃₀	3.30	3
Trans. 2, 2'-bis (200)	154 ^{ms}	- ² ₃₀	3.30	3

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532	289 All Sports	65% - 19	12	26.0	Source: FT Information
723	625% Ringling	70% - 15	34	16.8	© Price at acquisition, 1 Ex dividend, 7 Ex corp. & Ex rights
739	117 Gateway Gap	70% - 15	34	10.3	Issue: V for all 4 Ex capital distribution, 8 Rights or report
367	342% Liberty	342%	0.7		available. No significant size. Companies in bold are
200	46% Lend Lease	62% - 3	38.7		enormous: of the FTSE 100 Index.

THE TIMES TRUST FUND

Spa
the f
from

pocket
 made to

Bangers

Norman Foster's fabulous American Air Museum has taken flight at Duxford. Marcus Binney reports



Space, the final frontier

A child peering out into a scrapbook could hardly fit in more bombers and fighters than are crowded dramatically into Sir Norman Foster's new American Air Museum at the Imperial War Museum's collection of historic aircraft in Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

Overhead, First World War biplanes circle, an F-100 plunges in an attack dive, a U2 spyplane soars on a high altitude mission and a Grumman torpedo bomber (as flown by George Bush) descends with flaps open to land. Others shelter beneath the huge wingspan of the eight-engine B-52 Stratofortress bomber, which sets the dimensions of the whole building.

Of course, the whole idea of an air museum is a conundrum. Aircraft are made to fly. Walk-through aircraft cabins, or platforms allowing one to peer into cockpits, quickly become boring. At Duxford, however, Foster and the Imperial War Museum create the sense of a giant hangar at the height of a campaign, with aircraft, helicopters, jets and missile transporters crowded together. You walk among these gleaming beasts as if you are a pilot or a rear-gunner, ducking under wings, avoiding propellers and making sure a sidewinder missile doesn't smack you in the eye.

The museum's curators are determined to avoid the usual syndrome of "Hands off, step back and don't put your miserable little mitts on our prize fighters." "We want people to have the excitement of being close to these machines," says

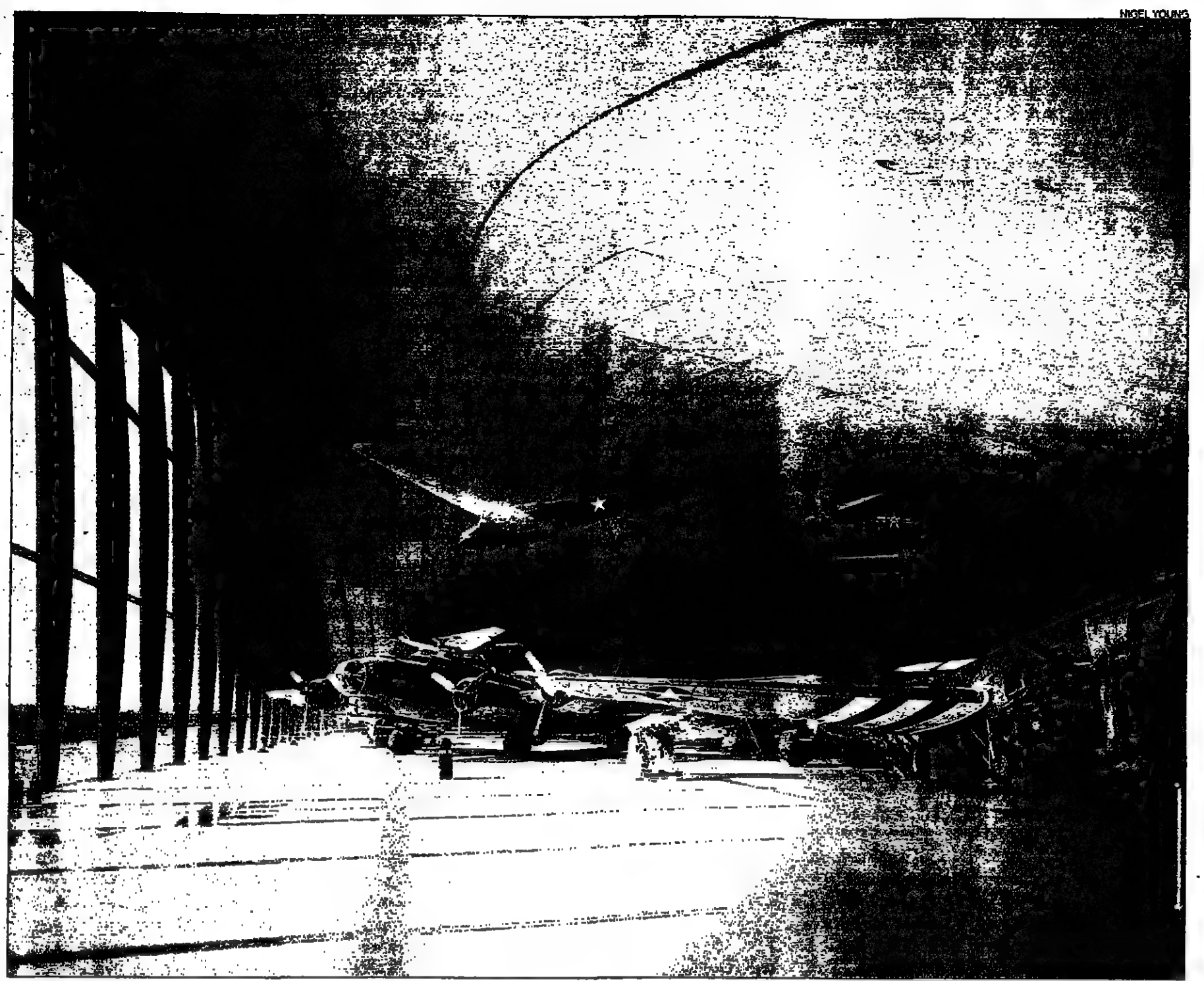
the museum's Frank Crosby. "We will discreetly place information boards and display cases anywhere there is a danger of the public walking unawares into something." In sheer numbers of aircraft the new display puts Duxford way ahead of its rivals, the RAF Museum at Hendon, the Aerospace Museum at Cosford in the Midlands, and the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton, Somerset.

The great quality of Foster buildings is natural light

This is not just a museum of the US Air Force but of all the fighting services. "We have army helicopters and navy Phantoms from Vietnam, and a Marine Corps B-25 bomber," Crosby says. Indeed, the official opening — by the Queen next Friday — marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the US Air Force, which until 1947 was a branch of the army (something which top military brass writing to *The Times* would like the RAF to be).

The astonishing aspect about the whole display is that, starting from zero funding just ten years ago, enough money has been raised not only for the new building but for the restoration of all the aircraft within it. One reason they are packed so close together is that on the Tarmac outside, in the Cambridgeshire mist, they were rusting as quickly as in a scrapyard.

Working to a price tag of £8.4 million for the whole building, Foster throws a welcome question-mark over some lottery projects demanding £20 million-plus for similar spaces. And he also delivers a riposte to all those who assume that because he is the most famous



Inside the soaring building, Norman Foster and the Imperial War Museum have created the sense of a crowded giant hangar at the height of an air campaign

architect in Britain, he must be the most expensive. "The only way this project could happen was to build at minimum cost," he says. The money was raised through donations from veteran American fighter pilots, and with a grant of £6.5 million from the heritage lottery fund.

Looking at the husk form of Foster's building, I am reminded of the manta-ray spaceships that came into toy shops seven or eight years ago. But Foster has precedence, as his initial design dates from 1986. The shape is one of his favourites: a toroid, like a slice off the outside of a doughnut.

It is an engineering conjuring trick, too. As the design developed Foster and his team (first Nick

Bailey, who went off to build boats, then David Nelson and Robin Partington) switched from steel to the idea of a concrete roof. As completed, 7,500 tons of concrete roof are held aloft on just 42 supports.

Dashing curved concrete roofs were a speciality of the Mexican Felix Candela and the Italian Pier Luigi Nervi in the postwar years, but not so many have been done since. It required a forest of scaffolding to hold up the 330 pre-cast concrete panels (each measuring 12 by 4 metres) which were cemented together and only finally became stable when the last one was put in place. Neatly, the

anchor points for suspending the aircraft are the same as those used to lift the concrete blocks out of their moulds.

The cavernous beauty of the interior is completed by the spectacular glass wall extending across the whole south front and framing a sunning panorama of the runway and gently rising landscape beyond. "Pilots from nearby RAF bases are hampered by restrictions, but here they can buzz the air tower and get permission to fly in low, to the delight of visitors," says Partington.

The great quality of Foster buildings is the abundance of natural light. Here he overcomes a potential handicap of the deep interior and solid concrete roof by introduc-

ing a ring of windows around the base in the manner of a spaceship command deck. The walls below the windows lean sharply outwards so that as the sun bursts through the clouds, light is reflected back onto the roof. When dark clouds loom, a sensor at the top of the glass wall switches on a battery of 50 2,000-watt lamps as strong as searchlights. But, says Partington, natural light is proving so good that they have hardly been used.

The military analogy continues outside, where the approach side is formed like a bunker, half-concealed in an earth mound, and the entrance is flanked by concrete blocks deliberately evoking Second World War Channel defences. Most startling are the sloping

emergency exit doors set flush into the grass bank. These spring upwards as soon as you press the doors within. Partington says: "It's a failsafe system operated by two-ton concrete counterweights. Oil dampers slow the opening to five seconds just in case little Johnny happens to be sitting on top."

Even on a Foster construction site, however, not everything goes quite to plan. If the Queen thinks that the turf around the building is a bit of a rush job, it is. Partington explains: "The in-built sprinklers proved so effective they completely washed away the original grass seed."

● The American Air Museum opens to the public on August 1, from 5.30pm (01223 835000)

A pocket-sized work made to measure

THE second of the season's Proms commissions, from the Greek-born composer Iannis Xenakis, was heard on Wednesday night. Something under five minutes in duration, *Sea-Change* is too short to be a major work. It is nevertheless a substantial one — every bar teeming with textural detail.

An arresting opening counterpoint of snarling low trombones with high, swirling sound. Thereafter, spiralling glissandi strings, subdivided to maximise their amplitude, create the aural equivalent of a vortex. The piece is not essentially pictorial, however: rather the title refers back to a setting of Ariel's song from *The Tempest* made by Xenakis three years ago, and hints at notions of transformation, evolutionary process and expectation. The



writing is bold and forthright, but in so short a timespan it has no room to develop, nowhere to go.

A hundred years ago, Richard Strauss had no such inhibitions in expressing himself: his *Heldenleben* (*A Hero's Life*) is unashamed self-aggrandisement spread lavishly over three-quarters of an hour. Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra delivered a performance that was true to the spirit, yet without any trace of vulgarity.

The opulent Straussian peaks sounded well in the cavernous space of the Albert

Hall, and particularly in Davis's skilful hands. Harsh edges were rounded off, the brass choruses suffusing the texture without overwhelming it. Solos were well taken: the leader, Michael Davis, painting a sympathetic portrait of the hero's wife.

Prokofiev's popular Third Piano Concerto, with its constant changes of gear and direction, is always something of a rollercoaster ride. John Lill's account traced all the ups and downs with well-nourished tone and sharpness of rhythm. Davis and the orchestra were with him all the way, and at the close of the first movement, their simultaneous touchdown was a moment of communal exhilaration.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Bangers and panache

IF EVERY late-night Prom is as gripping as this we shall all be desperately short of sleep by September. Little did I imagine that I would ever miss the last bus to Hendon, because of a Senegalese circumcised dance. But then, I doubt whether even the finest Senegalese circumcisers perform with quite such relish as the Ensemble Bash.

They are a British four-man percussion group whose name does scant justice to their subcity, virtuosity and global outlook, though it does hint at the mad humour and loose-limbed living that enlivens their shows. Here they joined forces with that most adventurous of pianists, Joanna MacGregor, for a programme which, with minimum musicalological fuss, pointed up the parallels between folk music of many cultures and the "alternative" art music of this century.

Thus it was educational, if you wanted it to be, but also



richly entertaining. And the fact that the performers actually spoke wittily to the audience (the arena was packed, even at 11.30pm) was a huge plus. It should happen more often.

Yet sometimes the links between "folk" and "art" were left to announce themselves. For instance the opening dance from Ghana — hypnotic rhythms played on folk xylophones and drums — dovetailed perfectly into Steve Reich's *Music for Pianos*. That made Reich seem less a minimalist pioneer, more a late convert to a drumming tradition as ancient as music itself.

Similarly, MacGregor's deliciously pellucid performance of some John Cage *Sonatas and Interludes* for prepared piano proved to be

ideal wrap-arounds for two pieces of recent British jazz: Orphy Robinson's *Suite d'Orpheus*, beautifully layered for marimba and vibes; and Django Bates's characteristically droll *The Catering Trade*, which (with the help of two actors) offered a wacky Pythonesque sketch along with the musical satire.

Best of all was a work that embodied both folk and art traditions: Frederic Rzewski's *Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues*. Rzewski's music promotes blissfully uncomplicated, old-fashioned socialism, and this typically ferocious polemic turns a 1930s protest song into a wild howl against factory tyranny. Originally a piano piece, it was splendidly embellished here, with MacGregor's epic solo supported by all manner of industrial clangs. Terrific, and terrifying, stuff.

RICHARD MORRISON



Tropical Vegetation follows earlier, more timid pictures

Great Dane as a pup

A French visitor looked worried. "But is this our Pissarro?" he murmured. He might well wonder — at least at first glance. The Pissarro of the exhibition *Pissarro in Venezuela* is indeed very different from the normal expectations aroused by the name. But then, so he would be. When Camille Pissarro went to Venezuela in 1892 he was only 22, inexperienced, untrained, and undecided whether he dared set out to be a professional painter or not.

As for being "our" French Pissarro, of course he was nothing of the sort. He was still a Danish national, having been born and brought up in the West Indian island of St Thomas, then a Danish colony. The visit to Venezuela was his first significant excursion from St Thomas, and though he went in the company of an older artist, the artist concerned, Fritz Melbye, was a visiting Dane. Melbye was Pissarro's first mentor and encourager, and since Melbye's own art harked back to the so-called Golden Age of

GALLERIES

Danish art, essentially a Biedermeier, conservative movement, it is not altogether surprising that Pissarro's first attempts at the exotic scene suggested more than anything else George Chinnery's sketches of the China Coast.

All the same, there is something premonitory about even the simplest pencil sketches. From the beginning, Pissarro is intensely interested in depicting ordinary people going about everyday tasks. Also, though he starts in Venezuela with timid pictures of basic buildings and the odd tree to give body to the composition or provide a sense of scale, he rapidly becomes fascinated with the tropical luxuriance of the scenes around him. Halfway through the show, he gains the confidence to allow his pencil to wander where it will. From then on the specific response to landscape is unmistakable.

Also, Pissarro seems to have been hesitant initially to

launch into colour. But then, as a climax to the show, colour bursts in, first in watercolours of jungle undergrowth and intricate fronds, then in warmly sepia-washed interiors of people cooking and, even more intricate and active, people dancing. There are also three oil paintings, which must be among Pissarro's first essays in the medium. No hint of Impressionism here: the forms are solid, the approach staid and academic. Nevertheless, the pictures are charming and confident enough to show how forceful was Pissarro's artistic bent right from the first.

Most of these works, seldom exhibited outside South America before, come from public and private collections in Venezuela. After its London showing in the Bolivar Hall of the Venezuelan Embassy, the exhibition will travel to the Edinburgh Festival.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way, W1 (0171-388 5788), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, until Aug 8

Wilde time on trial

THEATRE
Gross Indecency
New York

leads to" They frequently slip into other characters — Bernard Shaw, Frank Harris, Queen Victoria — and, during the second trial, they become Wilde's rent boys.

In casting the short and slim Michael Emerson as Wilde, Kaufman cheats a bit. Emerson doesn't appear 16 years older or considerably heavier than Bill Dawes's callow but loyal Lord Alfred Douglas. The effect idealises them as a

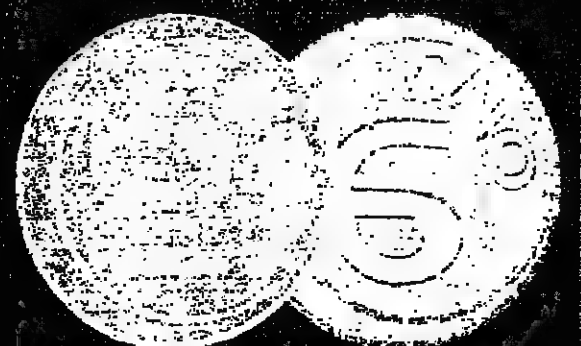
gay couple and skirts the fact that the older Wilde used to have sex with Douglas's cast-off lovers. But the truth probably wouldn't help one warm to Robert Blumenthal's apologetic Queensberry. "His real object was to ruin his son and break the heart of his former wife," Shaw tells us.

Nonetheless, Emerson recreates an egotistic, passionate artist, but without effeminacy. Giving evidence, he cocks his head as though listening for the sound of his genius.

A satiric scene, that stops outside the 19th century, opens the second act. In it, a present-day jargon-spouting academic (Greg Steinbruner) discusses the trials' impact. Entangling himself in assertions such as "Wilde created the modern homosexual," the professor winds up declaring: "I'm sort of hesitant to reach any conclusion." After sampling the issues presented by this play, one can sympathise.

EDWARD KARAM

BOOKING BY PHONE?



WE'RE IN YOUR CORNER

The Future of Money

Elegy for a rapper



Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs: No Way Out pays homage to the late Notorious B.I.G.

PUFF DADDY & FAMILY
No Way Out
Puff Daddy/Arista 73612
73012, £11.99

HOW embarrassing for Oasis. After all that hype they find themselves nudged out of the No.1 slot after just one week by the Puff Daddy & Faith Evans single *I'll Be Missing You*, which had already enjoyed a three-week stretch at No.1 before the Oasis record was released.

But whatever hat he is wearing, Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs knows the sound of a real hit record when he hears one. As A&R man for Uptown records in New York he signed such multi-million selling acts as Mary J. Blige and Jodeci. As a producer he is currently working on albums by Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey and SWV. And now as a star in his own right he has released a debut album, *No Way Out*.

POP ALBUMS

that combines cool emotional authority with a pragmatic ear for a commercial sound.

Standing at Combs's shoulder throughout this album is the ghost of the Notorious B.I.G., the rap star who was shot dead in March this year. Not only is he credited as executive producer and featured on many of the tracks, but B.I.G. is also, of course, the inspiration for *I'll Be Missing You*. Indeed, his violent death informed the core mood of the album, which has a much more poignant and regretful tone than that of any previous heavyweight rap record.

"I've never been afraid to die. But I know I don't want to die. Not just yet anyway," Combs says with heartfelt conviction on *I'll Be Missing You*. "I can still hear the shots that left my man B.I.G. layin'..." and *What You Gonna Do?* ("How you gonna tell your son his daddy is deceased?") look beyond the confrontational belligerence of gangsta rap and explore the painful aftermath of violence.

There is a sense of *déjà vu* about the music, which samples strategic chunks from sources as diverse as David Bowie's *Let's Dance* to Yarbrough & Peoples' *Don't Stop The Music*. Nevertheless, *No Way Out* is a step forward, and a guaranteed goldmine. Will we be able to say the same about the Oasis album?

pointment, the best rock'n'roll record Richard ever did make — *I'll Be Me*, which reached No.2 in 1962 — is not included.

But at least *The Rock'n'Roll Years* throws a fresh slant on Richard's back catalogue, which is more than can be said for the overpriced and outrageously titled Elvis Presley boxed set, *Platinum — A Life In Music*. Promising more than 70 unreleased performances, this collection of dress picks over the already

bleached bones of Presley's legacy in the kind of forensic detail that even hardened obsessives are likely to find wearying.

■ **SQUAREPUSHER**
Big Load
Warp WAP92, £4.99 (not available through the Times Music Shop)

YOU could call it drum & bass, or progressive techno, or weird electronics, or all of these. But there is really no category that fully encompasses the outlandish music of Tom Jenkinson, the 21-year-old bass player and drum machine programmer from Chelmsford who is otherwise known as Squarepusher. His third album, *Big Load*, is a brief, frantic excursion into the world of modern electronic music that combines the ingenuity of avant-garde jazz with the surreal comic timing of a Tom and Jerry cartoon.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *The Fat of the Land*.....Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (2) *Spice*.....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (3) *OK Computer*.....Radiohead (Parlophone)
- (4) *The Best of...Michael Jackson/Jackson 5 (Polygram TV)*
- (5) *Come Find Yourself...Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)*
- (6) *Vanishing Point*.....Primal Scream (Creation)
- (7) *Heavy Soul*.....Texas (Mercury)
- (8) *White on Blonde*.....Texas (Mercury)
- (9) *Songs from Northern Britain/Teenage Fanclub (Creation)*
- (10) *Blood on the Dance Floor*.....Michael Jackson (Epic)

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(Figure in brackets denotes last week's position)

Echoes of the master

■ PAOLO FRESU

QUINTET
Wanderlust
(BMG 74321 46435 2)

ALTHOUGH this is Italian trumpet Paolo Fresu's first official release in the UK, his quintet has been justly celebrated, since its inception in 1983, as one of the most accomplished outfits in acoustic jazz. Occupying ground roughly equivalent to that staked out by Miles Davis in his pre-electric days, Fresu's trumpet, frequently muted, leads an eloquent pair of saxophonists — Tino Tracanna and Erwin Vann — through a varied repertoire.

In the main it is composed of poised, in-house

JAZZ ALBUMS

originals. Fresu is by turns bustlingly inventive and sweetly plangent, and his band play with exemplary grace.

■ BILL HOLMAN

BAND
Brilliant Corners
JVC JVC908-2

BILL HOLMAN, drey of West Coast big-band arrangers, has produced a variety of arrangements for the Troland Monk repertoire band, his 16-piece outfit emulates both the tightness and the rumbustiousness of, say, the Mingus Big Band in a superb selection of Holman arrangements.

Daringly imaginative without being over-fussy, and always true to Monk's eccentrically bluesy spirit, these ten Monk tunes have seldom sounded better.

CHRIS PARKER

The centrepiece of the seven-track mini-album is a number called *Come On My Selector* which goes charging through a cupboard-full of percussive effects, thrashing, crashing, bumping and banging with perilous abandon, yet somehow managing to fall dead on the beat every time. The implausible velocity of the drum beats in *A Journey To Redhead* (from *Mix*) makes them sound like revving motorbike engines and creaking door hinges. Jenkinson splices sounds into a riotous patchwork of polyrhythmic gymnastics. *Big Load* is a work of pure madcap genius.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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LONDON

BBC PROMS The second week-end of the 103rd season begins tonight with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducting the BBC Proms in the second of the BBC's Proms, which is followed by Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony. On Saturday, Richard Hickox conducts the BBC Philharmonic in two Proms, premiering Grange's *The Wonders* and Jonathan Harvey's new concerto for percussion and Elynn O'Brien. The young person's guide to the Orchestra and Elgar's *Enigma Variations* top and tail the programme. On Sunday, Libor Pálek conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. *Orchestra*, two choruses and four soloists in Handel's dramatic oratorio, *Jonah*, at the State, with Fiona Shaw in the title role. 16. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tonight-Sun 7.30pm

BLITZ '97 The annual three-week dance festival at the Festival Hall begins tomorrow and runs until August 17. Five (mostly) daily events begin at 10.30am and include workshops, performances, discussions and other dance-related activities. Tonight (19.00pm) Friction Theatre Urban (France) gets the festival underway with a dramatic performance. Tomorrow (20.00pm) Sarah Harper's *Blackpool* journey through the dreams and nightmares of Blackpool's carnival (also tomorrow and Sunday, 8.00pm). For details of this and other events, please visit the Festival Hall box office number below. Festival Hall, Balcony Floor, South Bank SE1 (0171-901 4301)

WIGMORE HALL Returns only for the last night of the season. The Shampans

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mackay

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ELSEWHERE

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WIGMORE HALL



Not quite the new T.S. Eliot: a group of young American MTV viewers concluded that Murray Lachlan Young was "like Shakespeare on acid"

The £1 million poet

Can Murray Lachlan Young justify his unique EMI deal? Nigel Williamson meets the showman of verse

Do not describe Murray Lachlan Young as a rock poet, or worse, the bard with the backbeat. "I call myself a performance poet who prefers supporting rock'n'roll bands to playing theatres or comedy clubs," he says firmly.

You cannot blame the latest champion of this hybrid genre, for predecessors from John Cooper-Clarke to Axl Hise the Stockbroker have failed to turn their initial novelty value into lasting success. Young, 28, is hip, humorous and hugely ambitious, with every intention of being the exception to the rule that pop and poetry make uneasy bedfellows. He has a £250,000 contract with MTV. And of course he has a much-publicised £1.1 million record contract with EMI, which is giving his first album, *Vice and Verse*, released on Monday, a giant push.

Young's darkly comic explorations of the underbelly of modern life make it not too fanciful to call him a Hilaire Belloc for our age, the creator of a set of adult cautionary tales for the 1990s. Typical targets of his caustic wit include cocaine users, heavy-metal fans, supermodels and pretentious poseurs: everywhere. *Casual Sex* features beautiful people who shout the

names of designer labels at the moment of maximum passion; *The Life and Death of Art* tackles the Damien Hirst school with vicious double-edged humour; *The Closet Homosexual* turns political correctness on its head, detailing the outrage of fashionably hip society when a noted gay trendsetter decides he is straight after all.

About 30 slices of this sometimes malevolent satire are being shown this summer on MTV — short sharp vignettes of verse sandwiched between videos by the likes of Michael Jackson and the Spice Girls. "That is where the audience is on a mass scale," says Young. "I like the elements of danger which surround rock'n'roll. If someone throws a bottle at you, you've got to duck. Sometimes it is a pain and a misery, but turning a crowd like that around is more exciting than making a bunch of half-arsed graduates laugh."

Young has become something of an expert at winning over ugly audiences. Faced with an unappreciative horde of Black Grape fans in Scotland yelling "Who's the w***er in the white?", he transformed

their taunt into a piece of mass participation verse, training them to recite the insult in poetic metre and then completing the line in mock triumph by declaring "I am he, I am he". His handling of the situation suggested unabashed star quality.

Mostly, however, Young provokes a far more enthusiastic

"I was dyslexic and failed all my exams"

reception. He has just completed a successful season opening for the Pet Shop Boys during their two-week occupation of the Savoy Theatre. Next month he plays at the Edinburgh Festival. "It's about making poetry accessible," he says. "The most satisfying thing is when people approach you afterwards and say 'I'm not into poetry or anything

like that, but I thought you were really good'." Young was brought up in Sevenoaks, Kent. "There was an oppressive market town mentality and I hated it. I was dyslexic and failed my exams." Yet the facility with words was always there, initially as a defence mechanism. "I was a late developer. All the boys were turning into men while I was still a skinny little kid. I used to get beaten up and I had to learn to talk pretty fast."

He moved to London and worked as a cycle courier and a landscape gardener, but eventually pitched up on the media performance course at Salford University, where he did his dissertation on stardom. "Basically it was a study in deconstructing what my desire for people to pay attention to me was all about. It made me realise that I had to express that in performance of some kind, otherwise I would have become a complete pain to everyone."

Young returned to London with a new confidence and worked the underground club circuit. He also became a DJ and developed a host of contacts which he probably could have exploited to become an actor, a stand-up comedian or a singer in a rock'n'roll band. He decided instead to be a performance poet.

"I didn't want to act because I wanted to be in control of my own source and I didn't want to join a band because I like working on my own," Young explains. "Poetry is the stem of all lyricism and the least restrictive form. I can tell you a poem here or I can stand on stage in a theatre and do it — any time, anywhere. It goes into books and the recording medium and it is the broadest possible piece of art. If you can perform as well, that takes it another stage further."

His long Byronic curls betray a romantic streak and he cites Coleridge, Yeats and Wilde as influences. More contemporary names such as Ivor Cutler and Vivian Stanshall also come up, but Young is bold enough to declare: "Shakespeare was the most massive influence. Just look at the dictionary of quotations." He claims that a group of young American MTV viewers concluded that he was "like Shakespeare on acid".

His debut album includes sympathetic musical backing from the likes of Jools Holland, something of a departure from his live performances. "It's about repeatability. A recording of me performing solo you would only want to listen to once or twice. You can put this record on in the car and it creates a mood that is more than just the poetry and has a life of its own."

Nevertheless live performance remains his first love. Young says that he used to stand on a chair in the middle of a crowded room and stare everyone down until there was silence. "I used to feel that I was invincible. Now I have learnt fear, which you need in order to achieve. Performing poetry is like being a door-to-door salesman. You've got to get your foot in straight away, then you can close the door

with them inside and start the demonic stuff."

Young sees himself as part of a long oral tradition. "If poetry is going to live, it has to come out of someone's mouth." Yet despite his bravura, there is a private voice to Young as well. "I write a different kind of poetry for the page which I don't show anyone. People can decide whether they like it or not after I'm dead. You see, underneath I'm really just one of those sensitive closet poets like everyone else."

It seemed churlish to remind him that he was due on stage in half an hour.

● *Vice and Verse* is released by EMI on Monday. Murray Lachlan Young can be seen on MTV all this month and live at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, from August 6 to 30

Delicious brew of chocolate and lemon

The seven geniuses of Belle and Sebastian are all you need

Wheels, which gallop, writhe and pant like Love's *Forever Changes*, and is sumptuous in a way music hasn't been since Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood took it upon themselves to bring brass-class to the masses.

Belle and Sebastian have no Belle and no Sebastian — they are seven, from Glasgow, formed on a government training scheme, and therefore "the result of botched capitalism". On a music business course they

publicity is our angle." Stevie Jackson, B&S's guitarist and backing vocalist, says, in a rare Belle-and-Sebastian-talking moment, Jackson, according to the one-page, self-written document that accompanies their second album, was discovered "singing Negro Spirituals as he built a footbridge over the Dunbartonshire marshes. When [Stuart David and fellow B&S member Richard] heard him sing, they laid down their rod and staff and were comforted."

"It's just that personally, I haven't really got anything to say," Jackson continues. "And it's maybe best to keep an elegant silence."

Such wisdom in ones so young! To run away from the graceless, squirming interview process, and simply get on with making witchy magical records. B&S's friend, Isobel, works as the band's icon and trademark — it is her languorous, swollen-lipped face that appears on the CD covers, and most of their photographs. Only one picture of Stuart David exists — snapped by a photographer when he wasn't looking. It swaps hands for £300 between music publications.

Belle and Sebastian are a rare and utterly mesmerising thing: a band who create their own world, and remain untouched by the tricky currents and destructive undertows of musical scenes. Think of The Lilac Time, Felt, Nick Drake if he'd had six mates who thought the same way as him — singles and albums that never really do that Top 20 thing, but remain in record shops and friends' houses, waiting for you to fall into them.

The latest instalment from B&S land is *The Lazy Line Painter Jane* EP, which starts off like *Eight Miles High* before stretching its wings out into a sexually charged bluegrass/psychedelic duet with a catastrophic guitar-line. Along with Radiohead, they're the only band you'll need this year.

● *The Lazy Line Painter Jane EP* is out on July 28. Belle and Sebastian play Union Chapel, Islington July 31; Oxford Zodiac Club Aug 2; Colchester Arts Centre Aug 3



CAITLIN MORAN

were instructed to record a single and form a record company as an exercise. On the minuscule budget of a single, they recorded a whole album — *Tigermilk* — and released it through Jeepster, their own company. However, it wasn't until 1996's *If You're Feeling Sinister* that audiences started falling into their bosky world.

Lead singer and songwriter Stuart David has a simple, affecting voice — plain, like an HB pencil, but capable of being smudged into depth and shadow by the tender thumb of emotion. And if you're wondering why you haven't read much about them, it's because they don't do interviews. Or photoshoots. They even stood up the man from *The New York Times* because David had second thoughts about doing publicity.

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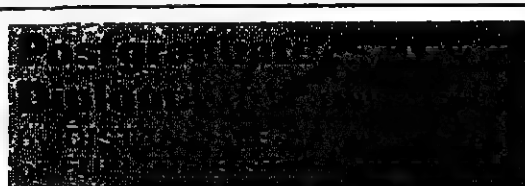
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Reading is the key to learning. What better time than the long summer holiday for children to get on with it? If it's wet, reading is something you can get on with indoors. If it's fine, you can do it out in the sunshine. And it goes without saying that every child should have books packed in the holiday luggage.

Stories provide imaginative knowledge of other places, people, worlds and times. Accomplished readers unconsciously soak up vocabulary, grammar, ideas and information. Concentration and self-reliance develop from reading. What good news, therefore, that common sense has prevailed and infant school teachers are now required to teach the mechanics of reading systematically. But being able to read is not the same thing as being a reader.

You learn to read properly by doing it, once the basics are in place. Lack of practice can lead children to be inadequate and reluctant readers. The world of childhood is flooded with the quick-fix visual imagery of television, video, computer games and the Internet. It's hard work for parents to maintain a balance.

No one who has a book is ever alone or without something to do... yet many of the secondary pupils I know resent any suggestion that they might read a book... especially when on holiday... because they say "We want to have a break and a good time". Have we reached a stage where

reading and pleasure are mutually exclusive? Parents who want their child(ren) to remain, or become, fluent, knowledgeable and thoughtful readers, will do everything possible to promote daily reading. So:

□ Take younger children to the library regularly. Many run story-telling sessions, which can trigger interest.

□ Read to the child every day — and not just at bedtime. One-shot stories are best for the youngest, but a serialised reading works well when they're slightly older.

□ Don't stop reading aloud just because the child can read. Aim for something just above the level that he can manage independently so that you're "stretching" him.

□ For summer holiday treats buy some of the children's "classics" — *Black Beauty*, *The Water Babies*, the *Narnia* books, *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Borrowers*, novels of E. Nesbit and so on. But don't forget the wealth of fine stories written more recently. Find out about children's fiction: batches of them are regularly reviewed in newspapers.

□ Read children's books yourself. Enthuse. Discuss them with your children and their friends. "A children's story which is enjoyed only by children is a bad children's story," wrote C. S. Lewis.



Children learn to read properly by doing it, once the basics are in place. Lack of practice can lead to reluctant readers

don't get time now" is conveying the message that reading is a puerile activity.

□ Make time. Be resolutely selective about television viewing, both for yourself and for the children.

□ Variety is vital. No one can read at the highest levels all the time. Anyway, how else do you learn to distinguish the marvellous from the mediocre other than by eclectic sampling? Teenagers are often hooked on Stephen King, Virginia Andrews and John Grisham. Much better than nothing, of course, but try to persuade them to dip into "modern classics" such as *Rebecca*, *Gone with the Wind* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, as well as the works of George Orwell, Iris Murdoch, H. E. Bates et al.

□ As for older classics, it's not much use telling your teenager

to read Dickens instead of playing a computer game if you haven't read a 19th-century novel for 30 years. Relatively accessible starting points for young readers are, for different reasons, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Jane Eyre*. They're all available in paperback editions with attractive covers. But you'll need to read them, too — and don't forget these books were originally written for adults.

What follows are a few enticing holiday reading suggestions for books written mostly in the past 25 years or so for young readers, and with which parents may not be familiar. I've divided them into three age bands, but the boundaries are very fluid.

● The author is a freelance writer, a part-time English teacher and the mother of two grown-up sons.

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

UNDER EIGHT: *Mona the Vampire* Sonia Holleyman; *I love Guinea-pigs* Dick King-Smith; *Tattercoats* Margaret Greaves; *Rosa's Singing Grandfather* Leon Rosselson; *A Gift from Winklessa Helen* Cresswell; *Olga the Polka* (series) Michael Bond; *Gundrop to the Rescue* (series) Val Biro; *The Church Mouse* (series) Graham Oakley; *Polly and the Stupid Wolf* Catherine Storr.

EIGHT TO TWELVE: *The Battle of Bubble and Squeak* Philippa Pearce; *The Ghost Dog* Pete Johnson; *Shakespeare Stories* and *Shakespeare Stories II* Leon Garfield and Michael For-

man; *Quest for a Queen: The Jackdaw* Frances Mary Hendry; *The Doll's House* Rachel Anderson; *The Great Elephant Chase* Gillian Cross; *Goggle-Eyes* Anne Fine; *Mrs Fris and the Rais of Nimb* Robert O'Brien.

TWELVE PLUS: *The Tulip Touch* Anne Fine; *Stone Cold* Robert Swindells; *The Village the Sea Ania Dessai*; *Gulf Robert Westall*; *Naming the Dark* Annie Dalton; *Melusine* Lynne Reid Banks; *Plague 99* Jean Ure; *Bad Blood* Bernard Ashley; *In Deep Water* Michelle Magorian; *Weather Eye* Lesley Howarth; *Buddy* Nigel Hinton; *Northern Lights* Phillip Pulman.

Reading: a skill for life

The invitation to join the new literacy pilot project, which started this week, came late to this school. Further funding had generously been offered by News International, at late notice, and the opportunity to participate was seized readily by the teaching staff.

The scheme is an experiment to see if further reading support given to 30 11-year-olds during the school holidays will improve their reading levels before they enter secondary school.

Most parents and many local and national industries have welcomed the initiative, and have given it instant encouragement and support. Curiously, not everyone is quite so happy. A few parents have opted not to take part. They feel the one-to-one special attention will "brand their children as poor readers".

Some primary teachers see it as an affront to the work they have been doing for five years, while others object to knowledge of reading levels being discussed in public. Many are against extra study in school holidays.

All are surely missing the point. At issue here is not who tries to tackle the problem of poor literacy or when this takes place, but that we as a nation see the wisdom of constantly trying new approaches to improve things.

The ability to read is probably the most important skill any child will need. It unlocks the door to so many opportunities and closes it to those who fail. We cannot afford to ignore the plight of the 20 per cent of pupils who leave school with inadequate reading skills. Poor readers often become "wealth consumers" rather than "wealth creators".

The power of reading in the development of youngsters must be hammered home at an early stage. Schools cannot

do this alone. Studies have shown that children's reading improves dramatically when parents take an active interest at home.

To help this, several pioneering schools have introduced schemes to help parents to understand this role. Homework clubs, parenting courses and helping with schoolwork sessions are boosting the confidence of parents and children.

Sadly, it can be too late for some children who arrive at secondary school as poor readers. Constant failure earlier on, especially among boys, can destroy any interest and can convince them that reading is not for them.

"Catch up time" for teachers and pupils will be hard going for the next few years. It is no coincidence that two thirds of all secondary students excluded have poor basic skills with reading ages three years below their chronological age.

As a nation, we must surely see the sense of investing more time and money in our five and six-year-olds where basic skills are learnt. As costs and expectations of the public sector rise, it is clear there will never be enough money to go round, especially to exploit the opportunities offered by computer learning and IT. We should provide more teachers and funding in the early years.

If we are to match our international competitors, we need to combat the anti-school feeling that exists and promote the wisdom of "learning for life". All communities must become total learning communities, where every available resource, every classroom and every computer is used day and night in an inventive, practical and cost-efficient manner to improve everyone's skills.

BOB SALISBURY
● The author is head teacher of Garbald School in Mansfield.

Make time for the children

It is ten years since the last Government started consulting on the Education Reform Act. One of the Act's centrepieces, the national curriculum, has been found wanting. It has been revised and will again be under review.

Only at Key Stage 3 does the curriculum framework appear to have stood the test of time. At Key Stage 4, it is an ineffective ghost, rather than an effective framework. It was at primary schools that Sir Ron Dearing, in 1994, aimed his revised national curriculum in the belief that it would free 20 per cent discretionary time each week.

As evidence for the review, the NUT commissioned Professor Maurice Galton, at Leicester University, to investigate the fate of discretionary time.

The findings confirm what has always been obvious to primary teachers. The schools give the highest priority to mathematics and English. In the 350 primary schools in the study, 25 per cent of weekly teaching time is given over to literacy at Key Stage 1 and 23 per cent at Key Stage 2; figures over and above the hour a day recommended by the Government White Paper. The figures for numeracy, on average, equalled the White Paper's hour a day. Without the restrictions of the curriculum, teachers said they would devote more time to these subjects.

As to the fate of discretionary time, most schools denied it existed. Only 8.3 per cent of those questioned said that the curriculum requirements could be met within the 80 per cent of the time available. One head said: "It is meaningless. I cannot believe that schools take it seriously."

Doug McAvoy on demands for an early review of the curriculum



Doug McAvoy: balanced curriculum

Equally serious, however, is that teachers believed that the very relationships needed between themselves and children to foster interest in learning were being damaged. The freedom and space needed to develop this interest is no longer there.

This evidence is not new but, to date, it has been ignored by politicians. Other research commissioned by the NUT from Professor John MacBeath, at Strathclyde

University, found similar time constraints. He said that "taking time and making time" for pupils was one of the strongest determinants of the school climate, staff morale, quality and effectiveness.

The absence of space and spontaneity in the primary curriculum and the absence of teacher time for each child has badly affected teacher morale. This has been compounded by the apparent ignorance of policy makers of the chemistry needed between teacher and child to encourage learning.

The Government's priority is literacy and numeracy, particularly in primary schools. This must be right. But if the evidence of the Leicester and Strathclyde Universities reports are ignored then the Government's targets for the millennium will not be met.

The "top-down" curriculum has had its day. Teachers are beginning to talk again about building on the interests of the child and "magic moments" and there have been positive developments arising from the national curriculum. The core subjects provide a framework. A balanced and broadly based curriculum is something for all to aspire to.

But what the Labour Government cannot afford to do is to leave the revision of the national curriculum until after the implementation of its strategy for promoting literacy and numeracy. Primary schools need a vote of confidence from the Government now.

● The author is general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

Will computers replace teachers? A headmaster gives his view

The classroom of the future

SIR RON DEARING'S review of higher education offered a vision of university students in 20 years' time, learning electronically and working largely from home. David Prichard, the headmaster of Wyckiffe College, in the Cotswolds, foresees a similar transformation in schools.

Mr Prichard, a former preparatory school head, says: "Eton and Winchester will continue, but many schools will die or change completely. Classrooms will look more like they do in St Albans, Pretoria, where they have 100 children, each with a computer in front of them, working at their own speed and two or three teachers around ready to answer questions."

Mr Prichard, who was head of Port Regis for 25 years, where the Princess Royal sent her children, says: "Schools will no longer be for the dissemination of information:

I can get that from the computer... But you'll still need a teacher to develop your intellect by stimulating discussion, encouraging your potential and sorting out what makes you tick."

Mr Prichard's revolutionary vision impressed Lord Griffiths, who was in charge of Baroness Thatcher's think-tank, and who used to invite him to Westminster to outline his views. He became head of Wyckiffe three years ago when it was "heading very sharply for the rocks". Senior members of the Headmasters' Conference thought it would be the first school in membership to go under.

The number of boarders it was attracting was on the decline, while the college's overdraft went up steadily. Mr Prichard had seen it all before at Port Regis, where he discovered on arrival that a third of the 90 pupils were due to leave the following July.

The school was £50,000 overdrawn, and desperate measures were needed. He sold laurel from the school's drive to Southampton undertakers, raised cash by selling the antique furniture in the common room and "flogged" the 19th century Chinese tiles from the fireplaces.

Mr Prichard says: "I was desperate to keep the ship

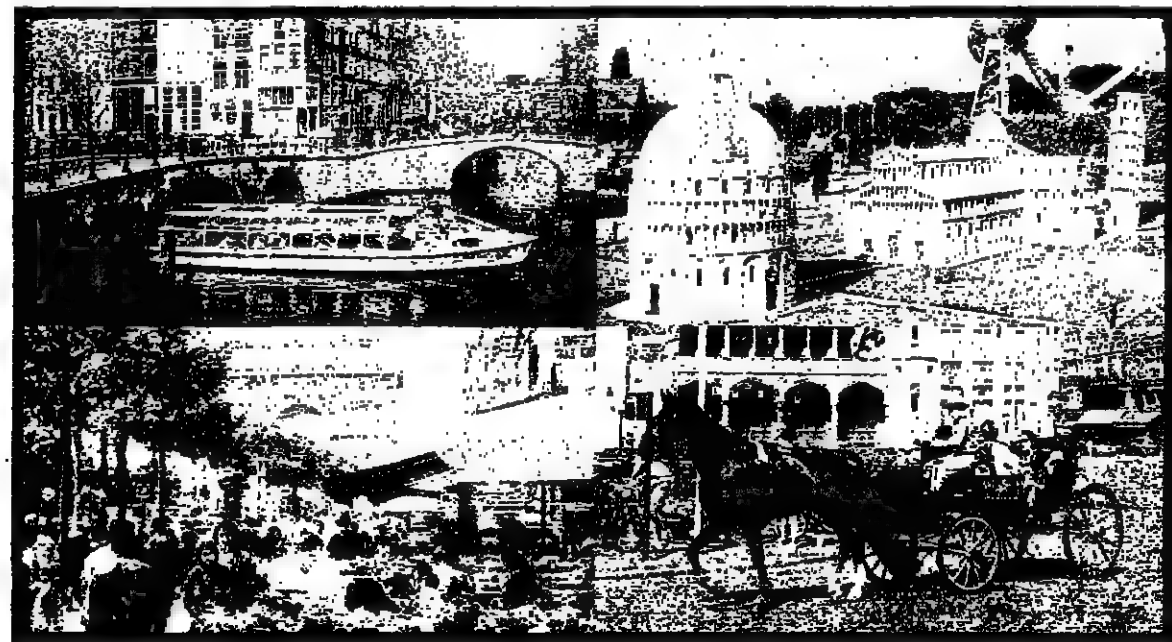
afloat." By the time he left, Port Regis had more than 300 pupils and 600 signed up to join. Mr Prichard's vision of the future is based on what he has seen on computers. "In the year 2015, you'll go to school for discussion, drama, music and sport. You'll be expected to be there to report on what you have done in front of your computer. There's going to be a shift towards the use of technology in learning. How it's going to work in detail I just don't know."

Teachers already leave children to work in the library, he says. "We were doing this with eight-year-olds at Port Regis. They would give up their free time and fight to get near a computer. It wasn't to play games, because that was forbidden: they were more than happy to do educational activities in their free time."

BRUCE KEMBLE

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

A two-night Euro break from just £49

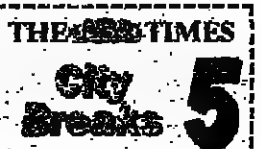


CHOOSE FROM AMSTERDAM, BRUGES, BRUSSELS OR PARIS

This week *The Times* offers readers a fantastic bargain two-night city breaks in Amsterdam, Bruges, Brussels or Paris from as little as £49 per person. The packages, based on four people travelling, include return Channel crossings either by P&O Ferry, Le Shuttle or Holyman Sally Ferries and accommodation in three or four-star hotels.

These offers are for departures between August 1 and September 30, except for the bank holiday weekend, Aug 22-25 which is excluded in most cases. You can book for just two people, extra nights, have a single room on payment of a small supplement, obtain reductions for children or travel by Eurostar if you wish. For full details of three of the offers, you should call the following numbers:

Amsterdam 01992 456080
Bruges and Brussels 01992 456157
Full details and a booking form for Paris will appear in tomorrow's *Times*.
You need four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* to take advantage of these offers. Telephone the booking lines (for Bruges, Amsterdam or Brussels) to make your reservation. Tickets will be issued on receipt of your tokens and booking reference number. All bookings must be made by August 15. These offers are not valid in conjunction with other offers and are subject to availability. Normal Amsterdam or Belgian Travel Service booking conditions apply.



SEE THE TIMES TOMORROW FOR THE PARIS BOOKING FORM

CHANGING TIMES

GOLF: SOUTH AFRICANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BENIGN CONDITIONS IN FIRST ROUND AT ROYAL PORTRUSH

Player prospers in the role of senior statesman

By Patricia Davies

IN THE first round of the Senior British Open at Royal Portrush yesterday, Gary Player, suitably clad, managed a very fair impression of the man in black who won nine major championships.

The small, determined South African, now 61 and recently recovered from a double hernia operation, started with a 68, four under par, to share second place with Dave Eichelberger, an American having his first taste of links golf. They trailed John Bland, the South-African who was rookie of the year on the senior tour in the United States last season, by two shots.

There was scarcely a breath of wind on a beautiful morning that could have been painted by the tourist board and the formidable Dunluce course, which is one of the greatest in the world, according to Bland and Player, allowed the early birds licence to plunder.

Bland, who has won approaching \$2.5 million (about £1.5 million) since he reached 50 in September 1995, missed only two greens — at the 7th and the 16th, where he dropped his shots — and had

matching halves of 33, with four birdies and one bogey a side. "A good day's work," was Bland's summation. "I took advantage of the wonderful conditions."

Bland, ten years younger than Player, paid tribute to the older man's influence. "Gary's the most important sportsman to come out of South Africa," he said. "He set a wonderful standard and made us realise how good we had to be. Even today, Ernie Els can go to places where Gary holds the course record and not get near it. Gary has always been the man in South African golf."

Player, who received an honorary doctorate of science from the University of Ulster

at Coleraine earlier in the week, is still throwing himself after the ball with as much relish as ever, but lamented a poor finish. He took three putts at the 16th for a bogey and managed only a par five at the 17th, which was playing downhill for him (the breeze got up and changed direction later). He said he was not hitting the ball as well as when he won the 16th tournament of his career, in Japan five weeks ago — only four weeks after the operation, which caused him to lose ten pounds in weight. However, he putted well.

Eichelberger won four times in his early life on the US Tour but never played in the Open. "I didn't think I was good enough," he said, "and I very much regret not playing now. My two sons live in London and they persuaded me to come over for this and I'm really enjoying it."

Not surprisingly, given that he had three birdies in the last four holes, including a particularly showy finish: a six-iron to 18 inches at the last.

By contrast, Graham Burroughs, from Essex, dropped two shots in the last four holes, but could scarcely be disappointed with a round of 69, three under par. After all, he had been all set to head for the ferry home after a round of 77 in the pre-qualifying here on Tuesday. A thunderstorm persuaded him to hang on and he found himself in a five-man play-off for two places.

Nicknamed "Coner" because he enjoys fishing for eels, Burroughs wriggled through and made the most of it.

Brian Barnes, the defending champion, drove beautifully in his assessment — on his way on a 70 but admitted his injured knee was sore. "I'm going to have to live with it and stick it up in the air," he said. He has been having intensive physiotherapy from Alice Truifield, the wife of a former club captain, and has been stocking up on painkillers. "A couple of large brandies would be better," Barnes smiled, knowing he must never drink again. "I don't know about honorary degrees," he said, "but I'm on my fifth medal from Alcoholics Anonymous, one for every year you stay sober."

SCORES

LEADING SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): GB: J Bland (SA), 68; G Player (SA), 68; D Eichelberger (US), 69; J Hudson, G Burroughs, J Francis, C Evans (US), L Briggs, D Jones (US), 70; R Jones (SA), N Paddie (Aus), B Barnes, S Hunt, D Butler (FI), D Coombe, T Wingo (US), J Richardson, G Morris (US), G Fetherston (US), G Fetherston (Aus), J Horton, J Newman (US), 71; H Jackson, A Garmy (I), M Grogan, T Gubb, B Irving (US), P Leonard, N Coles, J M Ross (SA), A Coles (I), R Hogg (US), 72; J Garmy (I), D Simon (US), N Wood, R Barnard (I), B Harwood (I), S Hoggart, B Waite, M Harwood (I), C Hoggart, K Cox (US), H Hoggart (SA), D Blevins.

Gilford makes strong bid for cup place

By Our Sports Staff

SAM TORRANCE and David Gilford, still hoping to make the Ryder Cup team this year, had conflicting fortunes in the first round of the Dutch Open in Hilversum yesterday.

Torrance, troubled with muscle problems just below his shoulders, had a disappointing three-over-par 74, after deciding to play over an hour before the start. Gilford, who had to withdraw from the Open Championship qualifying last week because of a back problem, is fully fit again and proved it with a six-under-par 65, just one shot behind Roger Coles, the surprise leader, from Essex.

Torrance, in thirteenth place in the Ryder Cup table and in need of a tournament victory after a lean year, had

physio treatment early yesterday, after admitting he had had "a pretty sleepless night" because of the pain.

He will need an outstanding round even to make the halfway cut as more than half the field shot par or better.

Gilford, nineteenth in the Cup table, says he needs to win at least one tournament and be high up in two others to make the Cup team.

He had four birdies in his outward 32 and three more coming home, with only one bogey, at the 16th, and joined Roger Chapman, who had seven birdies and an eagle, plus three bogeys in his 65, in second place. But Coles had the most consistent round of the day with nine birdies and only two bogeys on his card. His 64 was a career-best score.



Bland, the first-round leader, plays out of the rough during his 66 yesterday

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bears bank on the unexpected

MOST of the half-dozen European victories in the world club championship have occurred when least expected (Christopher Irvine writes).

Oldham Bears, the bottom side in the Stones Super League, sent out an unequivocal message about the Australian teams being far from invincible when they upset North Queensland Cowboys a week ago.

Tonight, Oldham complete their programme in the transglobal competition at Boundary Park against a revamped Adelaide Rams, who also discovered at Leeds Rhinos that

straightforward victories at home do not necessarily translate into victory in the return leg.

No European team has managed more than one Australian scalp. If Oldham could avenge their 42-14 defeat last month at Adelaide, then they would be well placed in European pool B for a play-off place at the fourth-placed team in pool A — at this stage, St Helens.

Well as St Helens played on Monday to stretch the margin of defeat at Cronulla Sharks to 16 points, an unaltered side will have to perform above

itself today to shakele Auckland Warriors, whose only change from the 64-14 victory over Bradford Bulls is the reappearance at full back of Matthew Ridge, their captain.

Bradford, unbent in 17 outings in the domestic Super League, had a chastening experience at Auckland — their fourth successive world championship defeat. Robbie Paul's broken thumb is not expected to prevent his comeback against Penrith Panthers next Monday but Steve McNamara sustained a calf injury and will not play any part.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Graham challenges world champions

HEROL GRAHAM could get another chance to win an elusive world boxing title. Panix, the promotion company behind the Sheffield man, has made offers to both Steve Collins, the WBO super-middleweight champion, and Robin Reid, the WBC title-holder, in a letter to Frank Warren, who promotes the two champions. Graham, who was widely criticised for coming back at the age of 37, after an absence of four years, surprised the experts 12 days ago when he stopped the highly-rated Chris Johnson, of Canada, at Olympia.

Lennox Lewis has asked the WBC to appoint Mills Lane as the referee for his WBC heavyweight title defence against Andrew Golota — who has been disqualified three times in his career — in Atlantic City on October 4. Lane was in charge of the recent bouts between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield and Lewis and Henry Akinwande, both of which ended in disqualifications.

Academy put on hold

POLITICS IN SPORT: The Government is to review proposals for an academy of sport in Britain after problems emerged with all three of the greenfield sites under consideration. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport is reluctant to commit about £100 million of Lottery money without further consultation and a conference in London this autumn could be the first stage of that process.

Smith seeks record

SWIMMING: Michelle Smith, right, the triple Olympic champion from Ireland, will chase the world short-course record for 200 metres butterfly in Belfast today. Mary Meagher, of the United States, swam 2min 05.65sec in 1981 and Smith's time will determine whether she defends her two European titles next month. "I will only go to the European championships in Seville if I can do myself justice," Smith, 27, said.



Luckman on target

RIFLE SHOOTING: Andy Luckman, 26, an accountant from Surrey, who represents the Sedgemoor club from his native Somerset, won the Grand Aggregate, the overall Blisley championship, yesterday. He scored a record 597 points out of a possible 705 in the ten main events of the week. Luckman, who came into the sport through the Somerset ACF, won the title for the first time at the age of 23.

Scotland's aim is true

CRICKET: Scotland claimed the Triple Crown by beating an England Amateur XI 3-2 in a bowl-out at Walsall after the final was abandoned with Scotland on 70 for two from 17 overs. Wales were awarded the wooden spoon after missing the stumps seven times to lose to Ireland 4-0 in another bowl-out at Moseley CC. Alan Lewis, 32, an all-rounder, had earlier won a record 119th cap for Ireland.

McGregor coasts home

CYCLING: Yvonne McGregor, the fastest qualifier in the women's national 3,000 metres pursuit at Manchester, raced to a semi-final and almost certainly her fourth successive title yesterday when she eliminated Clare Gross at the half distance in the quarter-final round and coasted to the finish. She said before the start that she would not be racing at full speed but saving her reserves for the semi-final round.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

VILLAMORADA, Finland: International meet. Men: 800m: 1. D. Kippert (Neth) 1:58.55; 1,500m: 4. W. Tarrant (Neth) 4:08.55; 2,000m: 5. M. Morris (Neth) 5:18.55; 3,000m: 8. M. Morris (Neth) 8:28.55; 4,000m: 11. M. Morris (Neth) 11:38.55; 5,000m: 14. M. Morris (Neth) 14:48.55; 6,000m: 17. M. Morris (Neth) 17:58.55; 7,000m: 20. M. Morris (Neth) 20:08.55; 8,000m: 23. M. Morris (Neth) 23:18.55; 9,000m: 26. M. Morris (Neth) 26:28.55; 10,000m: 29. M. Morris (Neth) 29:38.55; 11,000m: 32. M. Morris (Neth) 32:48.55; 12,000m: 35. M. Morris (Neth) 35:58.55; 13,000m: 38. M. Morris (Neth) 38:08.55; 14,000m: 41. M. Morris (Neth) 41:18.55; 15,000m: 44. M. Morris (Neth) 44:28.55; 16,000m: 47. M. Morris (Neth) 47:38.55; 17,000m: 50. M. Morris (Neth) 50:48.55; 18,000m: 53. M. Morris (Neth) 53:58.55; 19,000m: 56. M. Morris (Neth) 56:08.55; 20,000m: 59. M. Morris (Neth) 59:18.55; 21,000m: 62. M. Morris (Neth) 62:28.55; 22,000m: 65. M. Morris (Neth) 65:38.55; 23,000m: 68. M. 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Morris (Neth) 761:18.55; 255,000

CYCLING: VIRENQUE UNABLE TO CLOSE GAP ON LEADING GERMAN

Victory in sight as Ullrich survives final challenge

FROM JEREMY WHITTE
IN MONTBLANCH

JAN ULLRICH, the leader of the Tour de France, experienced his most uncomfortable moments since donning the yellow jersey as Richard Virenque, the Frenchman lying second overall, made one final attempt to catch the German on the eighteenth stage, through the hilly Vosges region, here yesterday.

However, the complexity of team rivalries and Virenque's own tactical confusion allowed Ullrich, aided by Udo Bolts, his team-mate and compatriot, to recover lost ground. There was some consolation for Virenque's Festina team as Didier Rous, 26, cruised to his first stage success.

Virenque, who set out more than six minutes behind Ullrich, had clearly not given up hope of reducing his deficit or even surpassing the German, and led an attack of ten of the race leaders, minus Ullrich, at the foot of the day's most significant climb, the Grand-Ballon, west of Mulhouse.

"We could see that Ullrich wasn't on a great day," Rous said, "so we attacked and he

couldn't go with us." By the summit of the Col du Hundsruck, after 85 kilometres, the group containing Virenque and two of his team-mates was almost one minute clear of a grimacing Ullrich. With only Bolts of his Telekom team available to help his pursuit, and with 90 kilometres still to race, Ullrich's command of the Tour suddenly looked fragile.

However, Virenque, increasingly irritated by the refusal of his fellow break-away riders to share the effort, suddenly ordered his team-mates to stop working. "This morning, I decided that I

didn't want to finish the Tour without again trying to crack Ullrich," Virenque said. "Everybody could see that he was tired but, when we attacked, we didn't get any help from riders who were placed in the top five overall."

Fernando Escartín, one of the leading riders in the break, was quick to respond to the charge. "Virenque doesn't know how to ride intelligently," the Spaniard said. "Of course, it was down to Festina to make the effort — they had the most to gain. But they have no sense of strategy. They had a chance to make up a lot of time on Ullrich, but he

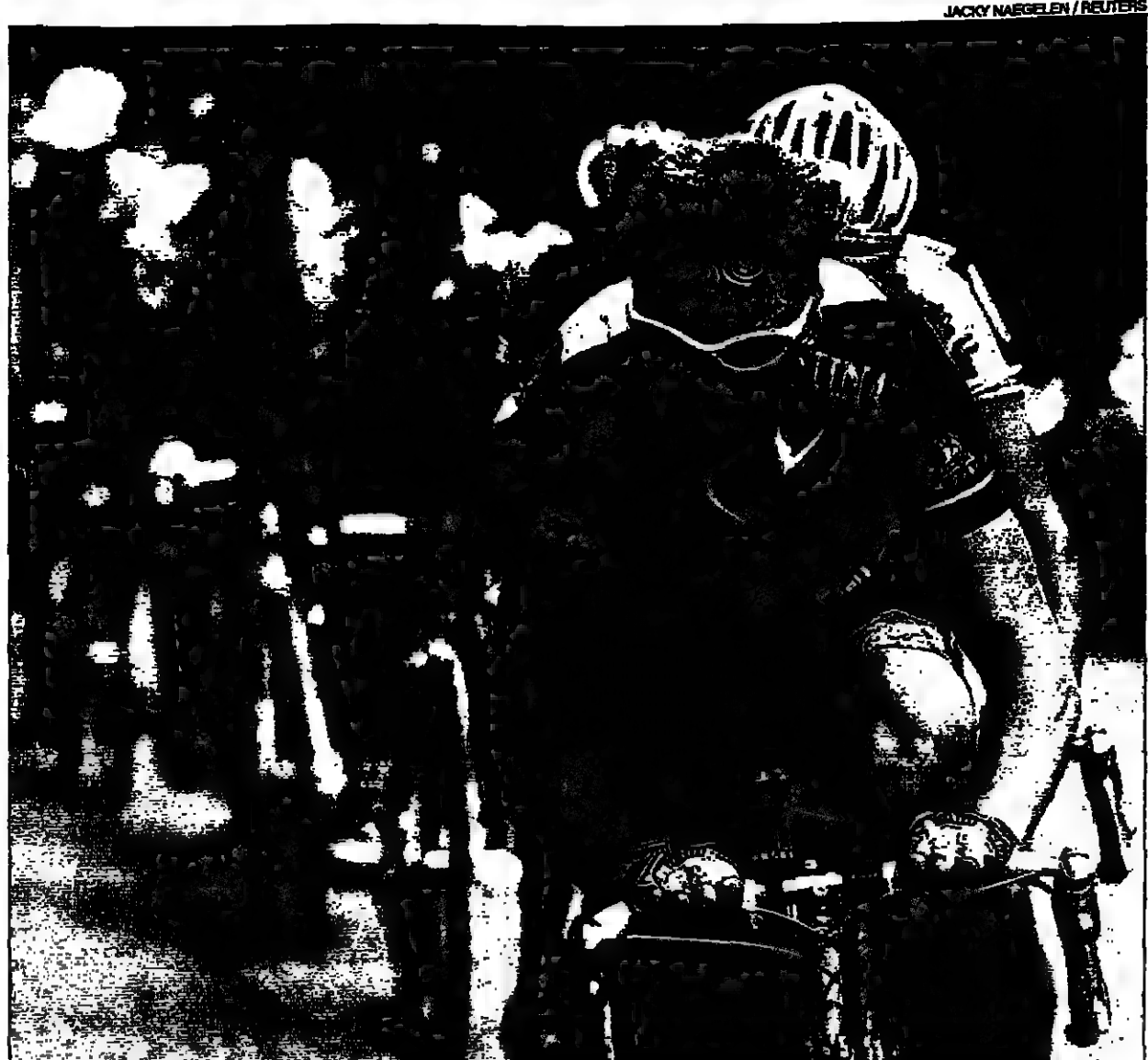
ordered them to stop working."

As Virenque shook his head and Escartín, Marco Pantani and Abraham Olano shrugged their shoulders, the Frenchman's two team-mates, Rous and Pascal Hervé, continued their high pace and moved clear. "Pascal told me to go, because he was going to drop back and look after Virenque, so I attacked as hard as I could," Rous said.

"Ten kilometres from the finish, I saw that I had a five-minute lead and I knew I couldn't be beaten. When the team's going as well as this, you feel like you're riding on euphoria."

Ullrich, who finished safely in the main field, now has the tour as good as won but, with only two flat road stages and the final time-trial on Saturday left to worry him, the stress of leading the Tour for the best part of two weeks is finally beginning to show.

"Today I felt really stressed because of all the pressure and media attention," he said, "but I suppose I'll have to get used to it. I'm happy that the race is nearly over and that we'll soon be in Paris."



Laurent Brochard, of France, leads the climb up the Grand-Ballon during the Tour's eighteenth stage yesterday

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

18TH STAGE (Colmar to Montblanch, 175km): 1. D. Rous (Festina) 4hr 48min; 2. P. Hervé (Festina) 4hr 50min; 3. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 01min; 4. R. Virenque (Festina) 5hr 02min; 5. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 03min; 6. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 04min; 7. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 05min; 8. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 06min; 9. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 07min; 10. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 08min; 11. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 09min; 12. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 10min; 13. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 11min; 14. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 12min; 15. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 13min; 16. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 14min; 17. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 15min; 18. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 16min; 19. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 17min; 20. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 18min; 21. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 19min; 22. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 20min; 23. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 21min; 24. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 22min; 25. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 23min; 26. J. Ullrich (Telekom) 5hr 24min; 27. J. 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CRICKET

Failure by Gooch puts Prichard in spotlight

BY JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 164 runs behind Worcestershire

NOT much of a day for Graham Gooch, the retiring hero, but a good one for Essex in general and for Gooch's bosom pal, Paul Prichard, in particular. There seemed a danger that Gooch might not get much of a chance to go out in style in the second innings, having scored but 11 in the first, but the odds in his favour improved as Essex lost Prichard and Stuart Law before the end.

So well did Prichard and Robinson bat that they made 218 together in 51 overs. Prichard, in sparkling form, went on to his first century against Worcestershire, but his 29th for Essex from 40 balls.

His boundaries came in sharp salvos, for he was quite content to lie dormant in between. He climbed 16 fours and a six over mid-wicket en route to three figures — a target Robinson, too, may well reach today.

It was ironical and, certainly for the Essex faithful, a crying shame that Gooch, the man whose place Robinson is likely to take, only just reached double figures. His runs came from 26 balls and he was in for just over half an hour. He treated the left-arm fast-medium Sheriyyar, bowling over the wicket, to one deft flick to long leg, the wrists turning impeccably as the stroke was played.

Gooch also played one vintage cover drive off the same bowler, the fielders left like statues as so often over the past 23 years. But then he moved too far across to the off side to play the left-arm's stock ball. The leg stump was exposed, and the bowler hit it. The morning had been largely occupied by a young man almost exactly half

Gooch's age, Reuben Spiring, who had been undefeated with 119 runs to his credit overnight. He continued, unconcerned and unhurried, through a further 31 overs and saw Worcestershire to within five runs of their total of 394 before being caught at square leg off Grayson, who had just missed catching him off his own bowling.

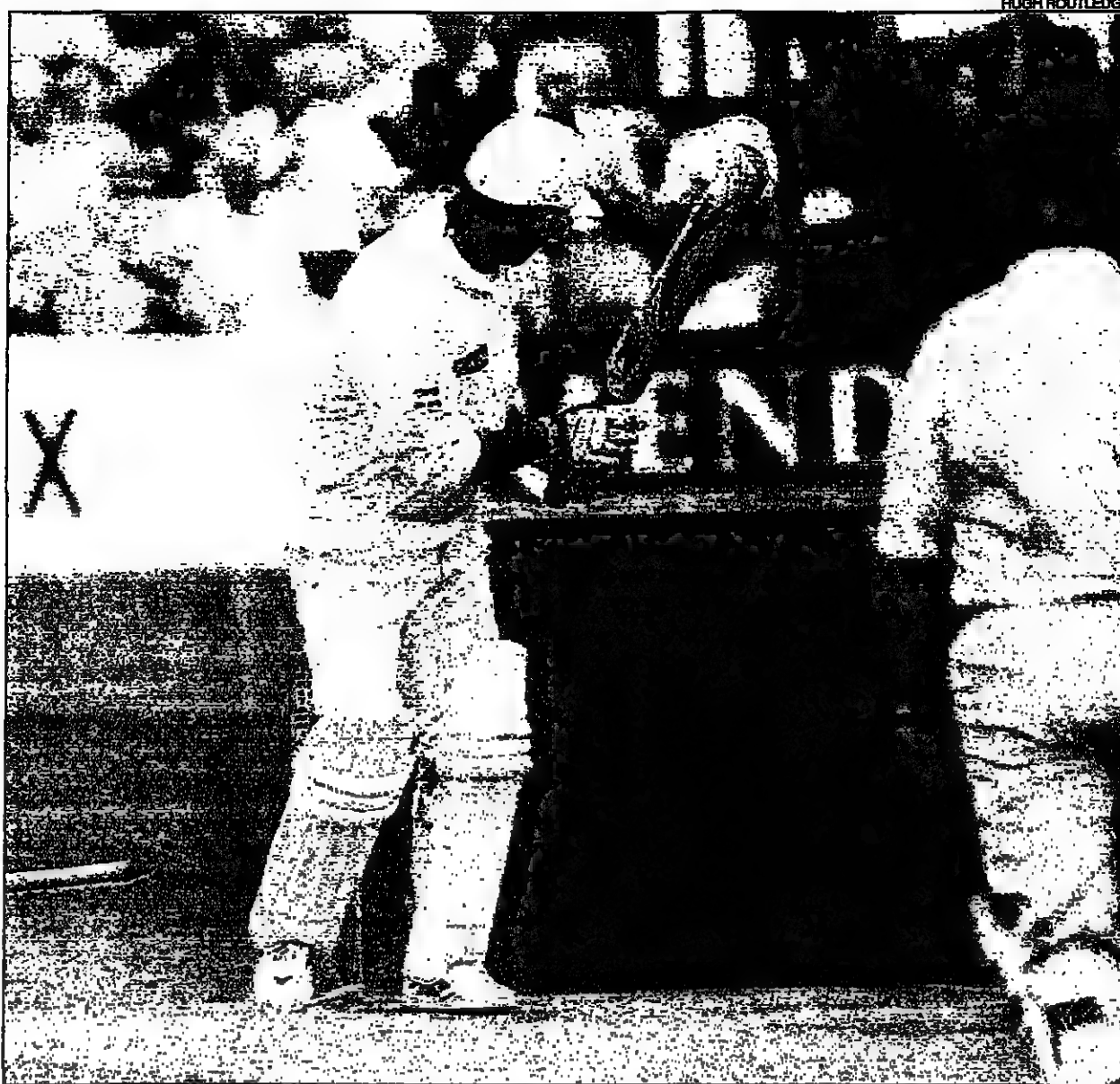
Spiring, who says he owes much to the coaching of Peter Carlstein in South Africa, is an improving player with unrelenting concentration to back up a sound method.

He batted six hours and 20 minutes for his 150, which was the highest score of his career. It was his first century of the season and he held Worcestershire together while 256 were added for their last six wickets.

A feature of the Worcestershire innings, from an Essex point of view, was the way in which Stuart Law nipped in to remove dangerous-looking players. Solanki, Hick and Rawnsley constituted a handsome haul for an occasional bowler.

It was Such, though, who bore the brunt, with 36 overs, three wickets and a number of near misses. Grayson bowled his left-arm slowly well enough to prove, once again, that Yorkshire's loss is Essex's gain.

Yet this nicely balanced game remains overshadowed by one bulky, leg-weary, slightly shuffling figure. It may be too much to ask that Gooch goes out in a blaze of glory, adding significantly to the 30,701 runs he has now made in 650 innings for Essex. Even if he does not, 94 centuries and an average of 51.77 is not a bad record when you come to think of it. Anyway, it may well be worth coming to Chelmsford on Saturday to find out what happens.



Gooch, on his farewell appearance for Essex, reached 11 before having his leg stump knocked out by Sheriyyar

Brown shows Surrey's strength

BY RICHARD HOBSON

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 427 runs behind Surrey

THE force remains with Alistair Brown. In attempting to follow his 203 in the Axa Life League on Sunday, he faced an unenviable task, but at Northampton yesterday he brushed aside any suggestion that the record would weigh too heavily on his shoulders. Brown was unbeaten on 170 when the second rain-enforced delay of the Surrey innings prompted Adam Holloake to declare on 581 for seven. It is the third-highest score of the season and presented a target of 432 to avoid the follow-on.

Northamptonshire, how-

ever, began in an unadorned fashion worthy of Brown. They scored 70 from the first ten overs before restraint took hold and enter the third day requiring a further 278 to meet their first challenge. Fifty-one of those early runs came in five overs from Chris Lewis, who bowled seven no-balls and switched to an approach of six paces as he sought to redress the problem, but still removed the off stump of David Roberts.

It says much for Northamptonshire's discipline that the six bowlers returned just 18 maidens between them in 140 overs.

Ben Holloake pulled Taylor out of the ground in the third over and could blame nobody but himself for failing to reach fifty. He was one short when he attempted to work Boswell through mid-

wicket and gave a leading edge to mid-off.

Holloake took responsibility for the early scoring, but any suggestion that Brown would be permanently muzzled was dismissed when Penberthy held a return drive by Lewis. What followed was quite simply a one-sided contest: indeed, when Bailey posted four men on the leg-side boundary for the off spin of Snape, the play bore more resemblance to a game of "dare" than of first-class cricket.

Brown scored heavily in front of the wicket on the leg side, but also drove through the covers off either foot when the line warranted. He reached his third championship hundred of the season after 195 minutes from 134 balls, but required only 32 more to pass 150. He batted

for 257 minutes in all and hit two sixes, both off Snape, and 24 fours. Jon Batty was modest enough to defer to his senior partner in contributing 23 of the seventh-wicket stand of 120.

Such a total underlines the strength in depth at the Oval, with three of the regular top four on England duty. It also appeared to give credence to their commitment to build on the Benson and Hedges Cup success.

Their first task this morning is to split Fordham and Warren, who have so far added 134 for the second wicket. Fordham marked his first championship match of the season by reaching 50 in 52 minutes, while Warren did so in 113 minutes, a flailing square cut over point against Lewis the highlight of his innings.

Confusion is name of the game for Sussex followers

BY BARNEY SPENDER

HOVE (first day of four): Sussex won toss; Sussex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 304 runs behind Pakistan A

CONFUSION and chaos have become synonymous with Sussex cricket over the past 12 months and yesterday's play at Hove provided large helpings of both for players and spectators alike.

On the field the confusion came in the shape of the young Pakistani batsmen trying to work out if they were batting on a minefield or a featherbed. Off it, there was an element of Corporal Jones's efforts not to panic as Len Chandler, the Sussex scorer, working in isolation, was left to guess which particular batsman was at the crease as the unfamiliar touring side constantly juggled the batting order.

Quite what the handful of hardy spectators made of it was anyone's guess. Those who arrived for the start were treated to the sight of, they assumed from the numbers on the scoreboard, Mohammad Wasim, the Pakistan A captain, opening the innings in a blaze of strokes as Kirtley and Edwards conceded the first 50 runs in just 6.3 overs. It was only when the real Wasim marched out at the fall of the third wicket that they discovered that they had been admiring, instead, the varied strokeplay of Ali Naqvi.

Naqvi made his maiden first-class hundred against an MCC XI a fortnight ago, and looked a certainty for another, possibly before lunch, as he rushed to 46 from just 30 balls. One loose shot, however, sent a harmless ball from Edwards to Peirce on the square-leg boundary and that was the cue for a splendid collapse which saw them lose five for 36 in 14 overs.

The batsmen had only themselves to blame, a rash of poor shots betraying a pitch friendly enough for Jamshed to come out helmetless when Naqvi fell in the sixth over. They were rescued by a robust 63 from Azhar Mahmood, who struck ten fours and a six, and a grafting 75 from Rana Qayyum.

Unbeaten Ganguly steers India into cup final

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOURAV GANGULY steered India into the final of the Asia Cup with an elegant unbeaten 73 off 52 balls against Bangladesh yesterday. The defending champions will play Sri Lanka, the World Cup winners, in the climax to the four-team tournament tomorrow.

India, needing to reach their target of 131 in 20 overs or less, cruised to a nine-wicket victory in 15 overs for the loss of just Sachin Tendulkar, their captain. The win was sufficient to place them second in the league standings, ahead of Pakistan, who have never won the Asia Cup, and Bangladesh, who finished last.

Ganguly, who hit two sixes and eight fours in his innings, shared an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 78 with Mohammad Azharuddin. The former India captain made 23 off 20 balls after India had lost Tendulkar for 28, with the total on 54, in the seventh over.

Earlier, some tight India bowling and fielding had restricted Bangladesh to 130 for eight off 43 overs, before a shower ended the innings with five of the stipulated 48 overs still to be bowled, overnight rain having already cut the match from 50 overs.

Robin Singh, the medium-pace bowler, took three for 13 in nine overs and Anil Kumble, the leg spinner, took one for 17 in ten overs.

INDIA
After Ali Khan bowled Tendulkar, the Indian batsmen were in a bit of a panic. But Ganguly's 73 off 52 balls, with sixes and fours, was the key to India's victory. The total was 131 in 15 overs. Bangladesh were bowled out for 130 in 43 overs. India won by 9 wickets.

INDIA
Sourav Ganguly 73 (52 balls, 6 fours, 2 sixes), Sachin Tendulkar 28 (20 balls, 4 fours), Azharuddin 23 (20 balls, 4 fours), Mohammad Azharuddin 23 (20 balls, 4 fours), Rana Qayyum 75 (113 balls, 10 fours, 1 six), Azhar Mahmood 63 (52 balls, 10 fours, 1 six). Bangladesh: Robin Singh 3 for 13 (9 overs), Anil Kumble 1 for 17 (10 overs).

Alleyne piles on agony for Durham

BY DEREK HODGSON

CHELTONHAM (second day of four): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 382 runs behind Gloucestershire

THAT bronze statue on the Promenade, tourists will be told in 2025, commemorates Mark Alleyne, the most prolific cricketer ever to grace the College Ground. The Gloucestershire committee is unlikely, so far, to have engaged an architect, but their county captain's association with this historic and charming venue is beginning to assume real significance.

Yesterday Alleyne, who was 77 overnight, took his score to 169 (off 203 balls), his thirteenth century for the county and his sixth here. He was already averaging 41 on this ground and has also taken 38

wickets at an average of 24. Men have done less and played for England.

Since he first arrived, a shy lad from Haringey Cricket College, in 1986, Alleyne has grown in stature to such an extent that he was elected captain after Courtney Walsh had become unavailable and Jack Russell had declined the post. Gloucestershire, with a virtually unknown overseas professional, are third and fifth in the county tables.

Alleyne has been much too proficient, in all departments, for an uninspired and disjointed Durham whose first visit to Cheltenham looks like ending in overwhelming defeat once the weather relents. He and Jack Russell took their sixth-wicket stand, at an ever-increasing tempo, to 205 in 56 overs, without offering a real chance. Alleyne lifted James Boiling over the sightscreen at the Chapel End and Russell pulled John Wood into a mar-

que; Alleyne also hit 32 fours before slashing to slip.

Russell then went on to his fourth century for the county, finishing 103 not out, after he and Martyn Ball had lashed a spirited attack for another 81 in 12 overs. Durham were left, by the declaration, with an awkward 17 overs but, after five of them, they were saved from further torment by a deluge.

Durham's captain, David Boon, is now in as wretched a run of form as his team. He has not reached double figures in his last six innings and it will need a ton of application from at least three of his players, plus that luck that is rarely found around losing teams, to save this match. Boon has never been an emotional or even inspirational figure, but has usually imparted an air of stolid defiance. Now, even that Australian sang-froid seems to have gone.

Dowman's career-best detains Leicestershire

BY RUPERT COX

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 199 runs behind Nottinghamshire

THE county champions were again held up at Grace Road yesterday, as Nottinghamshire consolidated their overnight position with a tenth-wicket stand that frustrated Leicestershire for a further hour. Then, when they batted, four rain interruptions deprived Leicestershire of 38 overs, which meant that they have now lost in excess of 1,550 overs to the elements this summer.

Nottinghamshire's last pair extended their partnership to 48 before James Ormond, who impressed with three for 64, forced Matthew Dowman to top-edge a pull for a career-best 149. Nevertheless, the visitors had, by then, gleaned three batting points for the first time this season and, in so doing, surpassed 300 for the third time.

Their 342 was almost entirely due to Dowman's 439-minute innings, as he continued to play with a mixture of abandon, luck and the crisp strokeplay so prevalent on Wednesday. That aside, Nottinghamshire were grateful for Leicestershire's profligate nature in yielding 52 extras, as only Tim Robin-

son, besides Dowman, exceeded 30.

In between the showers, Leicestershire made steady progress before the New Zealanders, Nathan Aspin, removed Iain Stutcliffe and James Whitaker with deliveries that kept low, while earlier, a fiercely lifting delivery from Chris Tolley discomfited Vince Wells. Despite Wells' protestations that the ball had deflected off his arm, umpire Allan Jones sent him on his way. With wickets tumbling to uneven bounce, on a relay surface, Leicestershire's anxiety over the toss was merely heightened.

In spite of this, Darren Maddy maintained the excellent impression he has begun to fashion with an unbeaten 75.



Dowman: crisp strokeplay

Derbyshire regret a lack of urgency

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Glamorgan, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 474 runs behind Derbyshire

THIS match offers a dimming promise of a first championship victory this summer for Derbyshire. There were five stoppages for rain and only 42 overs were possible against the leaders, leaving the bottom county reeling a lack of first-day urgency.

Phillip DeFreitas dismissed Steve James leg-before, without offering a stroke as Glamorgan embarked on the initial target of making 264 to avoid following on. But Derbyshire still have much to do.

Vince Clarke with 76 not out, including 12 fours and a six at a run a ball, had earlier made his fifth first-class half century this season for Derbyshire and passed 600 runs in his 21st innings since moving from Leicestershire. Now with his third century, having played for Somerset three years ago, a maiden hundred beckons Clarke. He fell one short against Warwickshire at Edgbaston last month.

The weather, meant that Derbyshire spent far longer than anticipated in passing 500 and launching an attempt to bowl out Glamorgan twice. The pitch is not conducive to that, either, as Dean Mal-

colm swiftly discovered. It lacks the pace and bounce of the white Queen's Park surfaces of the recent past. Short-pitched deliveries asked to be dispatched and invariably were.

On the first day, Derbyshire's scoring rate had declined from a spectacular 182 in the opening session, to 123 in the second, then a paltry 74 post-tea, having opted to send in a nightwatchman, Andrew Harris, when acceleration should have been the priority. Instead of being on their knees, Glamorgan escaped with two bowling points, although Waqar Younis returned the expensive figures of two for 132.

Glamorgan's plus points included a stunning catch at second slip by Matthew Maynard to oust Matthew Vandrou off the bowling of Steve Watkins, who also had the unconvinced Harris caught at the wicket. He stood his ground until given out by Vanburn Holder, the umpire at the Lake End.

The Tannoy announcer called the day's play a limited edition. It might have been even shorter and James probably wished it had. Only three balls from Malcolm were delivered in Glamorgan's innings before the fifth stoppage and a wait for the final resumption.

10p

THE TIMES

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Formula One losing licence to thrill

Crisis, what crisis? More than 100,000 spectators, fuelled by beer, bravado and a boorish sense of national identity, are camped in the forests around Hockenheim. With their flags, flares and fireworks, they will lend a theatrical air of expectancy to the German Grand Prix on Sunday.

The race will enshrine the power of the modern Formula One car, which will exceed 215mph on four separate sections of a four-mile circuit that is redolent with history. Teams such as Jordan and McLaren will challenge the established order at Williams and Ferrari, and the drivers will require subtlety in addition to the courage that is a prerequisite for speed.

The auguries are encouraging. There is a sense that the sport has reached an axial moment. Its financial and professional standards may still be set by one man, Michael Schumacher, but the infusion of young talent is a significant sign of collective strength.

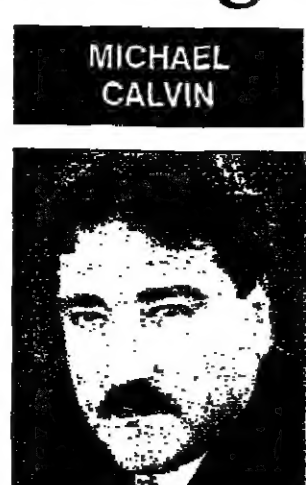
Generations are changing. Only yesterday Gerhard Berger announced that he is to leave Benetton-Renault at the end of the season. Retirement seems the logical option.

because drivers such as him, Jean Alesi and Mika Hakkinen are being pushed to the margins by newcomers such as Giancarlo Fisichella, Jarno Trulli and Alexander Wurz. For every thirty-something such as Damon Hill, who is seeking the security of a seven-figure contract, there is a Dario Franchitti, serving a quietly efficient apprenticeship at an institution such as Mercedes-Benz.

Global television ratings remain stratospheric, although one should never forget strictures about damn lies and statistics. Sponsors circle the paddock like hawks scanning summer hedge-rows but, somewhere, something is missing. Formula One is becoming a soulless experience; a business expense rather than a labour of love.

It still attempts to exploit the innocence of the days when drivers emerged from their cars with the insouciance of Battle of Britain pilots emerging from their cockpits. With their grimy faces and casual acceptance of risk, they were heroes for Everyman.

The intrinsic dangers remain, but characters have been consumed by the corporate culture. The suits in the



MICHAEL CALVIN

motorhomes prefer faces to be fresh, comments to be bland. Praise the Lord Mammon, laud the engine manufacturer, and land the sponsor. There is an element of the emperor's new clothes here. The start of a grand prix is still one of the most riveting spectacles in professional sport, but when was the last overtaking manoeuvre that inspired instinctive inhalation? From a personal point of view, it was probably as far back as the sixteenth lap of the Portuguese Grand Prix last year: when Jacques Villeneuve had the temerity to overtake Schumacher on the outside.

The British Grand Prix, 12 days ago, might have been absorbing and invested with great nervous tension, but its

drama was dependent upon mechanical malfunction, rather than individual inspiration. There was not a significant overtaking play in the entire 194-mile race.

Hockenheim offers a better chance of a successful lunge, but such manoeuvres are so studiously old-fashioned that they seem to deserve preservation in a sepia print. Colour-by-numbers circuits such as Magny-Cours, where accelerating out of the racing line would be suicidal, prevail. Typically, in Hungary, which hosts the next grand prix, there is only one marginal opportunity to overtake, at the initial right-hand corner.

Mark Blundell, the exiled British driver, accepts that Formula One is the pinnacle of technological achievement, but insists that an IndyCar race is a far superior product in terms of entertainment. Given that he has won two of the last three by margins of 0.027sec and 0.659sec, he might have a point.

David Coulthard is certainly a convert. He experienced the recent race in Vancouver as a paying spectator. "I'm no anorak, but it was great," Coulthard said. "I could wonder where I wanted, watch what I wanted. It made me

relate to the reasons why people want to go racing."

Blundell returned to the Formula One paddock for the first time in two seasons in Montreal last month, where he provided colour commentary for ITV. He was struck by the cultural differences. "When you're in it for the whole time, you don't notice these things, but when you've got used to another environment, it hits you," he said. "There are not too many happy faces, are there?"

Frank Williams balances his argument, but admits to some misgivings about the direction of the sport. "I have found some races this year so gripping I didn't want them to end," he said. "But I would like to see some more challenging circuits. On too many it is too difficult to pass."

In the immortal words of Williams, "a Formula One car should make you shiver". Villeneuve insists that he years for any opportunity to indulge his passion for "pure speed". He stresses: "That's why I do what I do." Hill is more circumspect, but even he suggests: "No one should be able to look at Formula One and say 'I could do that, no problem'."

Too many can, and do.

'Indycar is superior product'

'Becoming a soulless experience'

TENNIS: HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LAND INTER-COUNTY TITLE FOR FIRST TIME

Wilkinson serves up cup success

By JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

WINNING provides reason enough to celebrate, but there is nothing like winning in style. The men of Hampshire and Isle of Wight took the latter route at Eastbourne yesterday, building up an unassailable lead to lift the Inter-County Cup for the first time in their century year.

An 8-1 trouncing of Yorkshire ensured that the victors prevailed with a day to spare. It was no more than they deserved. The team played with assurance throughout this gruelling round-robin format, often outclassing opponents from the opening rallies. The players will take a lap of honour today, although their determination has been such that Surrey, their opponents, can expect no favours at all.

The platform for Hampshire and Isle of Wight's resounding triumph was established by their first pairing of Chris Wilkinson and Laurence Matthews. Their strength in returning service has seen them triumph in each of the 24 sets that they have played to date. Wilkinson, ranked No 4 in Britain, requires little introduction; the fact that he has yet to lose his service in more than 50 games pays him handsome tribute.

Yet Matthews, who has been coaching and playing league tennis in Germany for the past two years, has more



Daniel Lobb guards the net as Julian Godfrey, his Hampshire and Isle of Wight team-mate, serves yesterday

than held his own — particularly with his exquisite touch at the net. He played with Wilkinson when they were juniors and the combination has looked well balanced throughout the week. "He has been very solid," Wilkinson

said of his partner. "It has been a pleasure to play with him." Despite his imminent return to the professional tour, Wilkinson said he has no intention of sitting out the round of matches today.

The county's second pairing, Nick Weal and Paul Scullard, all but matched Wilkinson and Matthews. They conceded just one of the 12 rubbers they contested to endorse Hampshire and Isle of Wight's supremacy. Weal, the British No 10, and Wilkinson bypassed a challenger tournament in Newcastle to represent their county this week. The move ensured that there was to be no repeat of events 12 months ago, when the county lost to Surrey by a rubber.

Ian Hewitt, the county cap-

tain, has employed a purposeful stride all week as he followed his team's progress. Now, for the first time in 35 years' involvement in county tennis, he could savour the taste of victory. Hewitt assumed the captaincy in 1984, when Hampshire and Isle of Wight won promotion from group six. He has now delivered the perfect focal point for the county's centenary dinner.

"It will be nice to have the trophy on display," Hewitt, 50, said yesterday. "That is why we have been so focused to do our best this year. It has always been my ambition to be associated with a winning side." Before captaining the team, Hewitt played in this event for 20 years — including when his county first won

promotion to group one. Hampshire and Isle of Wight have been well supported this week — not least by those who stocked and tended their splendid lunch wagon, upon which many a covetous eye has strayed.

In the women's event, Essex remain firmly on target to record their fifth consecutive championship after brushing aside Yorkshire 8-1, despite the concession of a rubber when Sam Smith, the British No 1, was delayed in traffic in the morning. They face Middlesex today, boosted by the expected return from a tournament in Dublin of Amanda Jones, the British No 10.

Warwickshire made sure Essex cannot afford to falter with a resounding victory over South Wales yesterday. Although Warwickshire have recorded marginally more winning rubbers than Essex, their opening-day defeat by the defending champions looks like proving costly. Yorkshire are the only county whose men and women are in group one, but both teams will fight for their survival today. Even then, victory for the men, against Devon, and for the women, against South Wales, may not be enough for either side to avoid relegation.

Boetsch passes test

ARNAUD BOETSCH, the top seed, secured a place in the quarter-finals of the Northern Electric Open in Newcastle yesterday with a 6-0, 2-6, 6-3 victory over Giorgio Galimberti of Italy.

But the Frenchman, who is ranked 38th in the world, is not optimistic about his chances of winning the tournament after struggling to

assert his superiority. After allowing Galimberti back into the match in the second set, Boetsch had three match points at 5-1 in the third but wasted them all, before finally going through on his fifth.

"I'm playing OK but I don't think I can win the title," Boetsch said. "My shoulder is very weak and I am not serving well."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Cookery from the stars

Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook
BBC1, 7.00pm (Scotland, 8.00pm)

It is the turn of the breakfast television host Lorraine Kelly and that nice Nigel Havers to do the rounds of the supermarket shelves and come up with the regulation £5-worth of ingredients that will be turned into a tasty meal in just 20 minutes. Professional chef Ian Woodford and Lesley Walters are on hand to help them do it, with the presenter Fern Britton doing her usual best to jolly things along. Whether introducing familiar faces into a format that has functioned for so long without them is a moot point, for hectic cookery is one area where members of the public can be just as watchable. But there is usually fun to be had from seeing celebrities cast against type and the contest between the weatherman Ian McCaskill and Michael Fish should be specially worth catching.



Fern Britton on kitchen duty (BBC1)

Hypotheticals
BBC2, 7.00pm

Clive Anderson has been so determined to prove himself as a television funnyman that it is sometimes difficult to credit that he is by training a barrister. But now he has the chance to demonstrate his courtroom skills as he plays moderator in the *Hypotheticals* game. It may seem a big switch, but he is assured that his questioning is sharp and that he leaves his jokes mostly behind. Some may even prefer this probing, jousting, serious Anderson to the quip-a-second talk show host. Tonight's imaginary scenario concerns the problems of running a small business, such as whether to take on a woman who is pregnant and how to deal with claims of sexual harassment. As usual in this series there are too many experts, with the result that some of them barely get a chance to speak. But it is a lively session.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

The one thing that removes gardening programmes from the everyday reality of amateur horticulturalists is that you never see a weed. Or if Alan Titchmarsh and company do suffer from mere's tails, bindweed and other horrors, they seldom let on. Until tonight. While heavy rain kept Titchmarsh out of his Mediterranean garden, the

weeds flourished. Before moving on to more pleasurable activities, such as planting day lilies, he must deal with them. It is a rare moment of revelation. The same can be said for Bob Flowerdew's contribution. Normally seen demonstrating unlikely uses for old car tyres or redundant freezers, Bob eschews both to sing the praises of scented plants. He is an old gardener's surprise, just quiet enthusiasm. She is in the Suffolk village of Long Melford to look over an exquisite display of clematis and perennials.

Get Fit With Brittas
BBC1, 8.50pm (except Scotland)

Chris Barrie, in his sitcom guise as the leisure centre manager Gordon Brittas, offers more tips for healthy living. The script is not quite as funny as last week's, or perhaps the novelty value of the format is starting to fade. But there is no argument about the seriousness of the message, however flippantly it is delivered. Barrie/Brittas is telling us in his nerdy way what we should already know, but often choose to forget or ignore, that we should take exercise and a lot of it. Moderate exercise which leaves us slightly out of breath is the thing, not sudden bouts of weight lifting or similar sudden exertions. Walking or cycling are the recommended modes, with Lesley Ash of *Men Behaving Badly* joining Brittas on a two-wheeled excursion into the countryside. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Here Comes the Boss
Radio 4 (FM) 10.00am

Whatever it is that makes the perfect boss (assuming of course such a creature exists) we ought to have a reliable composite of him / her by the time Patrick Wright's series ends in four weeks' time. It's astonishing but true that 3,000 books on management theory were published last year. Wright's brief — important in these industrially competitive times — is to establish how theory can be translated into practice, and how to test whether, as the old saying goes, practice always makes perfect. *Here Comes the Boss* kicks off by posing the question: can good bosses be even better if they themselves have been subjected to military discipline? I should imagine that former sergeant majors will know the answer to that one.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greating 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Breakfast Show 12.00pm Newsweek 12.45-1.00 John Peel 1.00-1.15 The Chart 1.15-1.30 The Chart 1.30-1.45 The Chart 1.45-2.00 The Chart 2.00-2.15 The Chart 2.15-2.30 The Chart 2.30-2.45 The Chart 2.45-3.00 The Chart 3.00-3.15 The Chart 3.15-3.30 The Chart 3.30-3.45 The Chart 3.45-4.00 The Chart 4.00-4.15 The Chart 4.15-4.30 The Chart 4.30-4.45 The Chart 4.45-5.00 The Chart 5.00-5.15 The Chart 5.15-5.30 The Chart 5.30-5.45 The Chart 5.45-6.00 The Chart 6.00-6.15 The Chart 6.15-6.30 The Chart 6.30-6.45 The Chart 6.45-7.00 The Chart 7.00-7.15 The Chart 7.15-7.30 The Chart 7.30-7.45 The Chart 7.45-8.00 The Chart 8.00-8.15 The Chart 8.15-8.30 The Chart 8.30-8.45 The Chart 8.45-9.00 The Chart 9.00-9.15 The Chart 9.15-9.30 The Chart 9.30-9.45 The Chart 9.45-10.00 The Chart 10.00-10.15 The Chart 10.15-10.30 The Chart 10.30-10.45 The Chart 10.45-11.00 The Chart 11.00-11.15 The Chart 11.15-11.30 The Chart 11.30-11.45 The Chart 11.45-12.00 The 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THE TIMES FRIDAY, JULY 25 1997

Wild? The foodies must have been furious

It's taken me a couple of weeks to work out what Nick Nairn is up to with the latest series of *Wild Harvest* (BBC2), but I think I've finally got it. First time only, I thought it was just plain ridiculous. I mean, describing *caribbean* as "a fantastic standby pudding". In the first place, it involves combing the Scottish sea-shore for hours to find little clumps of red seaweed; secondly, not even the inhabitants of Skye seemed to rate it much ("I'm not sure how you would describe it but it's not that pleasant"); and thirdly, the blueberry sauce that allegedly provided the perfect accompaniment was "all the better if left for three days". Standby pudding? It would take less time to record an entire series of *Ready, Steady, Cook!*.

But the first thing that Nairn might be pursuing another culinary agenda came last week when his main course began: "First shoot your Arctic hare... Was that the suggestion of a smile playing around his lips? I think after last night's expulsive effort we can safely say it was. For *Wild Harvest* turns out to be nothing to do with teaching people new recipes. Its true agenda is much more fun - tormenting foodies, tormenting the Lloyd Grossman set, whose passion for the freshest and most obscure ingredients knows no bounds.

Nairn is clearly out to make their lives a misery and last night he came up with a real lulu: hand-dived scallops. "Just so wonderful, flavoured", it was inspired. All over Britain this morning, the catering classes will be signing up for scallop-diving lessons, looking forward to swapping bouillabaisse recipes in the decompression chamber. Those of us who stick to being guests, on the other hand, can look forward to innocently observing: "These scallops are nice, dive for them yourself!"

The footage of Nairn doing just that was actually rather distressing. Nobody, you see, had warned me that scallops actually put up a fight. As the first sign of a hand-diver, these bi-valves go all fluster and they desperately try to flap their way to safety. It's pathetic and utterly funny. Back on the surface all it took was an expert twist of Nairn's knife: "You can see it's still beating, it's so fresh." Umm, lovely.

But the tormenting of the Masterchef brigade was not over yet. The key to his roast hand-dived scallops dish (apart from his hallmark flames) was a tomato and shell-fish sauce. And the key to the sauce was "tomato water", which apparently is what you collect when you suspend five pounds of ripe tomatoes in a soaked muslin bag over a very small container, and leave them overnight. That sounds just the thing for the decompression chamber.

There were more recipes in the final instalment of *Smith and Jones* (BBC1) but the one that springs immediately to mind was so disgusting that I can't bring myself to make even the most oblique reference to it. Oh, all right then - wolf! Sorry.

Like any 30-minute, sketch-based show, *Smith and Jones* has found itself compared to *The Fast Show*, a comparison which quickly gets tied up in meaningless arguments about which came first or which is better. Caroline Aherne's "Scorchio" or Smith and Jones' hyper-inflationary state of Panama? Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson probably do hold the fashionable high-ground at the moment, but so what? It's almost 18 years since Smith and Jones were in the same position with *Not the Nine O'Clock News*. They've been there, done it and successfully moved on - several times.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (12670)
6.30am *Breakfast News* (11800)
9.00am *Breakfast News Extra* (11800)
9.30am *Ready, Steady, Cook!* (1151212)
9.50am *Kilroy* (1151212)
10.30am *Gloria's Time-Out: Barriers* (1151212)
10.45am *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)
10.50am *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)
11.00am *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)
11.15am *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)
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2.45pm *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)
3.00pm *Cricket: Fourth Test - England v Australia* (1151212)

BBC2

6.00am *Open University: The Clinical Psychology* (7754187) 6.30 *Build a Better Business* (7754187) 6.50 *Modelling in the Long Term* (7754187)
7.15am *See Hear Breakfast News* (7754187) (and signing) (6650496)
7.30am *The Foodies* (7754187) 7.55 *Postman Pat* (7754187) 8.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 8.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 8.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 9.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 9.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 9.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 10.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 10.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 10.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 11.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 11.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 11.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 12.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 12.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 12.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 1.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 1.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 1.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 2.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 2.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 2.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 3.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 3.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 3.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 4.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 4.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 4.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 5.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 5.30 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 5.50 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 6.10 *The Raccoons* (7754187) 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